

MEDIA RELEASE

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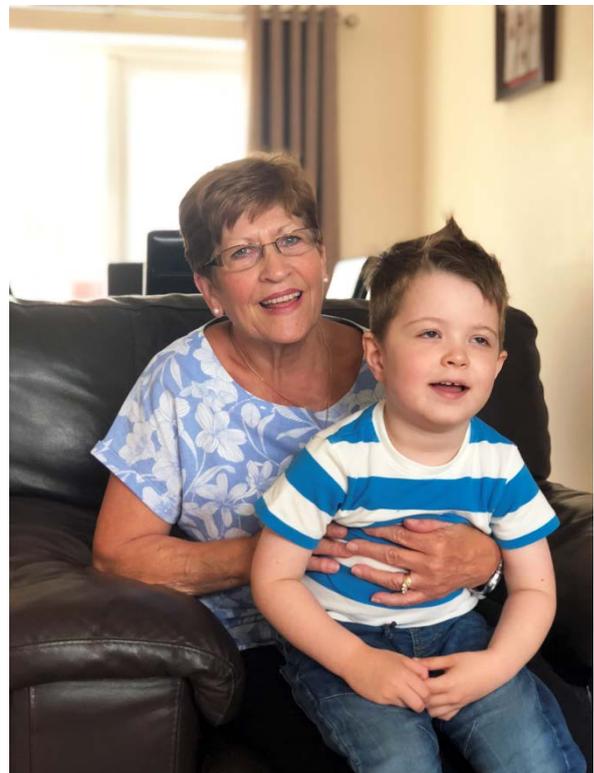
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70 year old volunteer wing walking to give young boy a voice

This July, the NHS celebrates turning 70 years old and we couldn't do it without our 425 volunteers. 70 year old Pauline Grimsley is a volunteer that's flying high to go above and beyond! On the 21 August 2018, Pauline is embarking on her biggest challenge yet- stepping up onto the wings of a plane to give one young Leicestershire boy a voice.

Four-year-old Laurence Tugby was born with a rare genetic condition which causes a brain malformation, epilepsy, cataracts, intellectual delay and physical disabilities. This condition means that due to the area of the brain affected, Laurence struggles to form language and only knows a handful of unclear words. This is where Pauline comes in- the 70-year-old going high into the sky strapped to the wings of a plane so that she can provide the family friend's little boy with an electronic communication device and give him a voice of his own.

For 23 years, Pauline worked as a healthcare assistant for Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. After retiring, she claimed that she missed the routine of getting up, going to work and doing something meaningful, this is when she started volunteering at Coalville Hospital two days a week. She says "volunteering gave me structure, I help to make the tea, coffee and dinner and I get to chat to patients. I just love it".



Pauline will be fastened to the top of a plane and taken into the air for 30 minutes, something which someone with a fear of flying wouldn't usually consider doing, but

Pauline wanted something to challenge herself, and it's all for a good cause. She said "If I can raise £3.5k that will get Laurence the core equipment".

Pauline has set up a JustGiving page where people can donate towards the fund, and is also going round with sponsor sheet in hand! But she doesn't stop there, on the 15 June, with the help of family and friends she held a chocolate bingo event- "With thanks from my family and friends and Hugglescote Working Men's club for their use of the establishment free of charge, we raised £1,200!"

The link to Pauline's JustGiving page can be found here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/givelaurenceavoice> where any donations to Laurence's fund are welcomed.

Photo Caption:

Top: Pauline Grimsley who will be participating in a wing walk for Laurence Tugby (also pictured)

-ENDS-

Volunteering opportunities are posted on the Trust's website at

www.leicspart.nhs.uk/volunteering

All volunteers have a one-day general induction with the Trust, and local induction with the team they are joining. Depending on the role, they may be offered further specialised training. In return, volunteers are asked to commit at least two hours a week for at least six months.

For more about the service, visit

www.leicspart.nhs.uk/volunteering; phone the team on 0116 229 4055/6, or email volunteering@leicspart.nhs.uk .



Note to editors

1. **Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)** provides community health, mental health and learning disabilities services for the one million people living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We have a budget in excess of £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: www.leicspart.nhs.uk

2. **Raising Health** is our registered charity (number 1057361) which raises funds to support LPT's excellent care initiatives, equipment and innovations which go above and beyond core NHS provision, to enhance the experience of our patients, service users and staff.

www.raisinghealth.org.uk

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