

MEDIA RELEASE

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Royal Ballet will help to launch Leicester's new Adult Eating Disorders Service

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust's nationally renowned Adult Eating Disorders Service has moved to £1.2m newly refurbished facilities, and will be celebrating the move with a special launch event on 13 June with two Principal dancers from The Royal Ballet.

The service, which recently moved to the Bennion Centre on the Leicester Glenfield hospital site, helps people from Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland suffering from a wide range of eating disorders including bulimia nervosa and anorexia nervosa. Its specialist regional inpatient unit cares for people with anorexia nervosa across the Midlands and East region.

The launch of the new facilities will be supported by Royal Ballet Principal dancers Marianela Nuñez and Thiago Soares, to help raise awareness of eating disorders amongst other dancers and staff in their industry.

Speaking about the opening of the unit, Marianela Nuñez said: "Whilst I have never suffered from one myself, studies have shown that there is a link between dancers and eating disorders. The Leicester Eating Disorders Service, through Professor Jon Arcelus, has been working closely with The Royal Ballet and Dance UK to prevent the development of eating disorders and kick-start a wider understanding of them."

Sue Noyes, Acting Chief Executive of Leicestershire Partnership Trust said: “I am pleased to announce that our nationally renowned Adult Eating Disorders Service has moved to new premises at the Bennion Centre on the Glenfield Hospital site. The new accommodation is of a very high quality and was developed as a result of collaboration with clinicians and service users. The new location provides greatly improved access for patients and families receiving treatment at inpatient unit which serves the whole of the East Midlands region. We are also delighted to be working jointly with the Royal Ballet at this time.”

The service offers a range of psychotherapeutic treatments and there is also daily group programme for inpatients and day patients which includes a range of therapeutic group activities such as Interpersonal Effectiveness, Body Awareness Therapy, Meal Cookery and Pilates. The service accepts patients aged 18 and over and occasionally younger patients aged 17 who are in transition from Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services. Anorexia nervosa has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric disorder.

In 2012 around 37% of the people seen by the service had anorexia nervosa, 33% had bulimia and 17% had atypical eating disorders.

The launch event will include an exhibition of the facilities, poster displays, mini tours around the ward (limited) and a chance to talk to key staff within the service, as well as an opportunity to speak to the ballet dancers.

If you are concerned that you, or someone you know, may have an eating disorder, then you should discuss this with your GP. The GP will assess whether a referral to the Leicester Adult Eating Disorder Service is appropriate. For more information about Leicestershire’s Adult Eating Disorders Service visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk. More information about eating disorders is available on the b-eat charity website www.b-eat.co.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The event starts at 2.30pm at the Bennion Centre. A pay on display car park is available. Interviews are available on request.

Marianela Nuñez is a Principal dancer with The Royal Ballet, London. She was born in Argentina and has won a host of awards including most recently, a Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance.

Thiago Soares is also a Principal dancer with The Royal Ballet, London. He was born in Rio de Janeiro and is married to Marianela Nunez. He won a Gold Medal with Moscow International Ballet Company in 2001, and Outstanding Classical Dancer – National Dance Awards 2004. He performed at the 2012 Paralympics closing ceremony with ballerinas who were blind.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £282 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk

Our mission: To advance health and wellbeing for you and your community

Our vision: To become an integrated Foundation Trust with a passion for quality and excellence

**For further information contact: Kamy Basra, Communications Manager,
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0919, E:
kamy.basra@leicspart.nhs.uk**