

MEDIA RELEASE

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New Health Short Breaks home opens in Leicester for adults with learning disabilities

A new Health Short Breaks home for adults with learning disabilities in Leicester has opened its doors.

The Gillivers provides respite for carers by looking after their learning disabled relative for set periods of time, and has been opened by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. It's located on the Glenfield Hospital site and receives clients from across Leicestershire and Rutland, providing short breaks for adults with learning disabilities and associated physical and sensory disabilities.

Most health short breaks are planned and allow for family carers to have a break from caring for their very disabled relative. At times emergency care and care at short notice is provided. Staff are very skilled and are adept at caring for people who require enteral (tube) feeding, moving and handling, personal care, tracheostomy care and a variety of other procedures. Care is provided 24/7.

The home replaces one at Tournament Road in Leicester, which was decided didn't meet the ideal current standards. Working with carers, clients, staff, and commissioners the decision to move to The Gillivers was agreed.

The Gillivers will improve on Tournament Road with wide corridors and doorways; sinks in every bedroom; a larger bathroom, with the bath in the middle of the room meaning staff can support from both sides; a larger shower/wet room; two fully accessible service user toilets; easier to get in and out the building; and a day bed with a ceiling hoist to assist staff and support service users. There are five single bedrooms, providing privacy and dignity for each client.

Lyn Treadwell, home manager, said: "We're really pleased to have moved in. It's a better environment for patients and the building itself is much more accessible. There is also more variety here for when we take clients out around the neighbourhood for a change of scenery and some fresh air.

"The name The Gillivers came from the parents of the service users who accessed Tournament Road when it first opened, and was in recognition of the home manager at the time, Gill Gates. Everyone is really pleased that we have transferred the name."

Dr Graham Johnson, clinical lead for learning disabilities for West Leicestershire, East Leicestershire and Rutland and Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Groups, said: "As commissioners for mental healthcare services across Leicestershire and Rutland, we are delighted that transformation money has helped to create this newly relocated centre.

"The move has improved the facilities on offer for those using it for a short break and I am sure parents and carers will also be delighted with the changes."

The home is for people with a diagnosed severe learning disability and associated physical disabilities and is accessed via their GP, through any other healthcare professionals involved in their care, or through Transitions Services, who manage people moving from child to adult services.

Staff liaise with carers to ensure the same level and type of care as clients would receive at home is provided. Clients are welcome to bring in any small items to make their stay more comfortable, and their relatives can telephone or call in at any reasonable time.

Michelle Churchyard-Smith is lead nurse/deputy clinical director for Adult Learning Disabilities at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. She said: "The new Gillivers home provides a modern, appropriate environment for clients with learning disabilities and associated physical and sensory disabilities.

"We have invested in refurbished the existing, empty building and we are very happy with how it looks. Our Short Breaks homes are very well respected by relatives and we're sure they will recognise the benefits to care that The Gillivers brings."

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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 £250 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk

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