

NEWS RELEASE

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2 pages

Mental Health Team Welcomes Police Chief

Mental health staff from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) warmly welcomed Simon Cole, Chief Constable of Leicestershire Police when he visited the Bradgate Mental Health Unit recently.

Simon Cole is also the national lead for mental health and disability for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and is committed to improving the service the police provide to people experiencing mental ill health.



Mr Cole was given a tour of the mental health hospital, whilst meeting the manager of inpatient services, Teresa Smith, ward staff and patients.

He said: “It’s been really helpful to visit local mental health services and meet with staff and patients. Any opportunity to develop a greater understanding of what people with mental health problems experience is a positive step forward.

“We’ve already developed close links with LPT and established a neighbourhood police base within the Bradgate Unit. This means our officers can respond quickly to incidents and be a reassuring presence for patients, their families and for staff based at the Glenfield hospital site.”

The tour of the mental health unit included a visit to general psychiatric wards, the intensive care unit and the Place of Safety; which is a dedicated area in the hospital where the police bring people detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 for assessment rather than to a police station – which may not be an appropriate setting for someone experiencing mental distress or crisis.

LPT's manager of Access Services, Teresa Smith welcomed the visit and said: "We're delighted the Chief Constable took time out of his busy schedule to meet and build on our good working relationship. We're hoping that by our services working more collaboratively we can provide the best possible support for people with mental illness".

Notes to Editors

1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living in the city of Leicester and the neighbouring counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. We serve a population of one million and have a budget in excess of £250 million and employ almost 6,000 staff. For more information visit www.leicspt.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

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