

MEDIA RELEASE/PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Football's coming home again - as teams bid for coveted NHS Cup

The NHS Cup, an annual one-day fundraising football tournament that pits teams from NHS services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, kicks off on Saturday 21 July.

The much-anticipated tournament will see 12 teams from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) and Leicester Hospitals battling it out for football glory at the GOALS soccer centre on Wakerley Road in Leicester.

Kick-off is at 10.30am.

In previous years teams have been NHS staff only but this year, for the first time, students from Leicestershire Recovery College, which provides free recovery-focused courses for people with experience of mental illness, will play alongside college staff as one of the competing teams.

As well as being a highlight of the Trusts' health and wellbeing calendar, the NHS Cup this year sees teams fundraising for projects that will enhance the experience of patients and service users.

The projects being supported range from 'calm down' boxes for wards at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit to dementia garden projects for LPT's Diana nursing service.



Tournament organiser Sam Wilson, (bottom right with colleagues from LPT) is a therapeutic liaison worker at the Bradgate Unit.

He explained: “Last year we raised funds for the Sport at the Bradgate appeal, which enabled us to buy sport and exercise equipment for inpatients at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit. This has been invaluable in getting patients involved in sport and exercise and promoting health and wellbeing.

“A particular highlight was being able to support a walking football session, which is now in its second season.

“The wide range of projects being supported through the NHS Cup sponsorship means we can make a difference to the recovery journey of more people across Leicestershire, with equipment that will enhance their care.

Sam added: “Our hard-working and caring staff, through their fund-raising efforts, have already seen the total raised pass the £1,000 mark and we welcome more support.”

Supporters are more than welcome on the day from 9.30am. Goals Soccer Centre has a number of facilities available including a barbecue, available from 11am.

If you can't get along to the event, you can support the teams by visiting the [Justgiving website](#)

If you would like more information about the NHS Cup, please email: sam.wilson@leicspart.nhs.uk

- You are invited to send a photographer/reporter along to the event. To request an interview please contact Sheila Ashton on 0116 295 0042.

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NOTES 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

For further information contact: Sheila Ashton, communications manager for adult mental health and learning disabilities services Tel: 0116 295 0042, Email: sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk