

MEDIA RELEASE

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Mental health crisis house moves a step further forward

The development of a mental health crisis house for people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland has moved a step further forward.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) is inviting tenders for the provision of short-term, intensive support for service users who need additional help during times of mental health crisis.

This follows a period of stakeholder engagement, which sought the views of service users, carers and staff on what this new service should look like.

Project lead, Zayba Joondan, said: "We are delighted with the level of interest that the development has generated. We received close to 300 responses, which were gathered using a variety of methods including an on-line survey and a service user and carer event.

"The feedback demonstrated that there is a need for a service that is easily accessible to people when they feel that they are reaching crisis point. Being able to access support 24 hours a day in a welcoming and safe environment and being able to talk through problems were seen as the most important features of the new service.

"The feedback we have received has shaped the written specification for the service that now underpins the tender process."

Potential providers are being asked to tender for a round-the-clock service offering facilities where timely face-to-face and telephone support can be provided for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

The service will also offer overnight stays of up to seven nights for people who might otherwise be admitted to hospital because they need to be in a safe place for a short time.

A short list of potential providers will be selected when the tender closes on September 4. An evaluation process will follow, with the successful bidder being announced on October 1.

The crisis house will form part of wider service development plans within LPT's Adult Mental Health Services, which aim to increase access to timely and effective care in the community, avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital.

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NOTES TO EDITORS Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services, mainly for people living in 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

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