

MEDIA RELEASE/DRAFT

4 December 2018

AMH.LD_31_18P

Carers ‘saving counties around £3bn a year’ signposted to support

Carers in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are saving the country an estimated £3bn a year – and it’s critical that services provide them with the right support.

That’s what Dr Peter Miller, chief executive of Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) told carers, health and social care providers. He was quoting figures from Carers UK at a special LPT carers' celebration and information event at the Bradgate Mental Health Unit in Glenfield.

More than 100 people attended the free drop-in at the unit’s Involvement Centre, organised



by the Trust to provide a showcase of organisations and services offering support for carers of people with mental illness and learning disabilities, and for service users and health and social care staff.

The Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Ross Grant and the chair of Leicestershire County Council, Councillor Ozzy O’Shea were among the guests at the event, where information on offer covered topics as

varied as employment support, carers’ wellbeing, mental health services, support for young carers and urgent mental health support.

Dr Miller told the audience: “Nationally 200 new people take on caring responsibilities every hour and it’s critical to provide the right support for them.”

Councillor Grant paid tribute to carers and those who support them, saying: “Everyone’s lives are the better for it.”

The programme also included entertainment from the DMU Gospel Choir, a play enacted by members of Leicester Carers Group and a moving account from Hinckley recruitment manager Claire Derby of her life as wife and carer to her husband Steve, who has



Huntington's Disease.

Marie McGranaghan, team manager for LPT's adult mental health recovery and rehabilitation services, said: "Carers play a huge and often unrecognised role in supporting loved ones with mental illness or learning disabilities. The scale of the work of carers brings it home how crucial it is that they know about and understand how to navigate the tapestry of support organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

"That's what we wanted to achieve through this Carers Rights Day event but it was also about celebrating the hard work and dedication of so many people, many of whom our patients and service users rely on."

Captions: Top left: Marie McGranaghan, team manager for LPT's adult mental health recovery and rehabilitation services (left) with Leicestershire County Council chair Councillor Ozzy O'Shea and LPT chief executive Dr Peter Miller

Bottom: Carer and wife Claire Darby with the Lord Mayor of Leicester, Councillor Ross Grant at the event.

-ends-

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

3 **Carers Rights Day**, hosted by Carers UK, is held to raise awareness of carers' needs, support carers to know their rights and help them know how to find help and support. For further information contact: Sheila Ashton, communications manager, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0042, E: sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk

-