MEDIA RELEASE

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Have your say on plans for Huntington’s Disease service

Patients, health professionals, families and the wider public are being invited have their say on proposals for Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust’s Huntington’s Disease inpatient service.

The service is currently based at Mill Lodge, a small inpatient service in Kegworth. It provides specialist care for people with Huntington’s Disease from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and surrounding counties in the East Midlands.

LPT is proposing to transfer the Huntington’s Disease inpatient service to the site of Stewart House in Narborough where it provides inpatient mental health rehabilitation care for people with complex mental health needs.

Facilities at both sites require significant investment to bring them up to required standards and the Trust has been looking for more than a year at ways to overcome issues posed by the geographical isolation of Mill Lodge, challenges recruiting and retaining skilled staff there, and the quality of the environment at both sites.

Teresa Smith, divisional director of adult mental health and learning disability services for LPT said: “In 2013 we carried out early engagement with staff, service users and carers as part of ongoing work to ensure we continue to provide safe, effective and high quality care across our complex care inpatient services.

“We have been investigating possible ways of addressing the issues of isolation, recruitment, the quality of the environment and our ability to improve support and cross cover across both services.”

LPT is proposing to transfer the Huntington’s Disease inpatient service to a new purpose-built facility to be constructed on the Stewart House site. and outlines the plans in an engagement document available online at www.leicspart.nhs.uk/huntingtonsfeedback.

Now the Trust wants people to have their say on the proposal and is inviting comment until Wednesday 17 December.

Copies of the engagement document and feedback forms are available

- In print – from Stewart House and Mill Lodge or on request via email from feedback@leicspart.nhs.uk (please mark your email Mill Lodge engagement)
- Online at http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk\Huntingtonsfeedback
And you can feed your views via online at
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Huntingtonsfeedback

Four public engagement events are taking place to give as many people as possible the chance to ask questions directly and find out more about the proposals. These are on:

- **Tues 2 Dec** 5.30 –7.30 pm **Mill Lodge**, Mill Lane, Kegworth DE74 2EJ;
- **Wed 3 Dec** 9.30am - noon **Volunteer Centre**, Barleythorpe Rd, Oakham, LE15 6QH
- **Tues 9 Dec** 5.30-7.30 pm **Peepul Centre**, Orchardson Ave, Leicester LE4 6DP
- **Wed 10 Dec** 5.30-7.30pm **Stewart House**, The Rise, **Narborough**, LE19 4SL

Places should be booked in advance by emailing Liz.bray@leicspart.nhs.uk or calling 0116 295 1666

Feedback will be collated and evaluated and the Trust aims to publish the results online at www.leicspart.nhs.uk by the end of January 2015.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and. Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £267 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff.

2. Huntington’s Disease is an inherited disease of the brain that damages certain brain cells. Damage to the nerve cells in the brain causes deterioration and gradual loss of function of these areas of the brain. This can affect movement, cognition (perception, awareness, thinking, judgment) and behaviour. Early symptoms can include personality changes, mood swings and unusual behavior, although these are often overlooked and attributed to something else.

In the majority of cases, Huntington's Disease is caused by an inherited faulty gene. However, in a small number of cases there is no known family history of the disease. There is currently no cure for Huntington's Disease and its progress cannot be reversed or slowed down. Treatments for Huntington's Disease aim to help improve or maintain skills used in daily living that can deteriorate over time.

3. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk For further information contact: Sheila Ashton, communications manager, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0042, E: sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk