

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Mental health wards gain top accolade

Clinicians have been given a seal of approval for the care that they provide to vulnerable patients.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists has awarded its prestigious accreditation to the two older people's wards at the Bennion Centre. The Bennion Centre is on the site of the Glenfield Hospital but is run by Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. It serves patients from across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

These wards provide inpatient care for men and women aged 65 and over with a range of mental health conditions including depression, schizophrenia and anxiety. Those with a primary diagnosis of dementia are treated elsewhere in the city.



Staff had to provide evidence they met or exceeded 225 different standards. A team of inspectors also visited to see conditions for themselves.

Laura Belshaw, specialist clinical director for the wards, said the accolade was a result of a great deal of hard work by staff.

She added: "I have been proud to watch their aspirations come to reality with the introduction of numerous quality improvement initiatives, which have been about providing high quality care to patients.

"Staff have fully engaged and educated themselves along the journey to ensure LPT has become a leading provider in this speciality. Their achievements have been implemented in collaboration with patients and carers."

Doctors, nurses, occupational therapists and physiotherapists from the wards will now be invited to join a network of other high-flyers, so they can share their experiences and drive up standards across the country.

The standards included having good quality information available to patients and relatives/carers about each condition and treatment options, having private areas available for patients to make phone calls or receive visits, support for their spiritual needs, and support for those detained under the Mental Health Act.

The inspectors also praised special initiatives available for Bennion Centre patients. These included access to dramatherapy including animal assisted therapy; having an electronic medicine administration system instead of using paper-based lists; and having dedicated ward-based pharmacy technicians.

The inspectors said: “The ward has a close knit, supportive team...good leadership is apparent.”

The accreditation lasts for three years. LPT will be carrying out regular audits during this time to ensure the standards are maintained.

- The Royal College of Psychiatrists is the professional body responsible for education and training, and setting and raising standards in psychiatry.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

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](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk).

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](http://www.raisinghealth.org.uk)

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