

# MEDIA RELEASE

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15 May 2012  
ES/18/12

2 pages

## Photo opportunity:

### **NHS makes a stand against discrimination on IDAHO Day**

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) PCT Cluster are to make a joint public stand against discrimination this Thursday.

On Thursday May 17 the Trusts' respective chief executive and chair will launch a banner together in support of International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGB and T)

And a special display is being provided for staff and visitors to view in the Trusts' neighbouring headquarters at Grove Park, in Enderby, encouraging them to get behind the message.

Last year the Trusts applied together for the Stonewall\* workplace equality index (WEI) and were ranked in the top 15 of 44 NHS organisations for our work to tackle workplace discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

LPT chief executive John Short said: "As a Stonewall diversity champion, as a provider of healthcare services and as an employer we have a commitment – and a duty - to meet the needs of all our communities. It's vital we strive to take account of everyone's needs in the design and delivery of all our services, including people from the lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender community."

PCT Cluster chair Cathy Ellis added: "There is increasing evidence of the health inequalities experienced by patients and service users as a result of their sexual orientation. This can be addressed through better access and targeted intervention.

"We value all, and recognise the need to bring together staff who may feel isolated or vulnerable. Staff groups can provide a safer and more supportive working environment. We are committed to addressing these health inequalities."

Recent research commissioned by PACE, a leading London charity which promotes the mental health and emotional well-being of the LGBT community identified depression, alcohol abuse, increased risk of self-harm and suicide bids as some of the potential effects of homophobia on mental health.

And among the findings of a national report published by Stonewall earlier this month, based on responses from nearly 6,900 gay and bisexual men across Britain were:

- A third of gay and bisexual men who accessed healthcare services in the last year have had a negative experience related to their sexual orientation
- A third of gay and bisexual men are not out to their GP or healthcare professionals

Another recent survey by Stonewall found that half of lesbian and bisexual women are not out to their GP. Stonewall says this can mean lesbian and bisexual women not always receiving the right advice about breast and cervical cancer screening.

The Trusts have confirmed their commitment to a plan of action to address health inequalities for all LGBT people.

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**Photo opportunity: You're invited to send a photographer to Lakeside House, Grove Park, Enderby, on **Thursday 17 May at 9.45am** when John Short, Cathy Ellis and members of the Trusts' integrated equality team launch the IDAHO banner.**

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### Note to editors

1. Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living in the city of Leicester and the neighbouring counties of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million and has a budget in excess of £250 million and employs almost 6,000 staff. For more information visit [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk)  
**Our mission:** To advance health and wellbeing for you and your community  
**Our vision:** To become an integrated Foundation Trust with a passion for quality and excellence
2. \*The Stonewall charity works to achieve equality and justice for lesbians, gay men and bisexual people. Find out more at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

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