

MEDIA RELEASE

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Six Leicestershire Partnership NHS staff to attend special national events to celebrate landmark 70th birthday

Six Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust staff, with a total of 231 years NHS long service between them, have been selected to attend two prestigious national celebrations – at Westminster Abbey and York Minster - to mark the 70th birthday of the NHS.

The celebrations, which will take place on the NHS's birthday on the 5 July, will pay tribute to NHS staff and patients who have contributed to the health service over the last 70 years.

York-bound are;

- **Avril Archibold**, Diana Childrens community Service Operational Lead Nurse, with 45 years' NHS service. She started the first ever respite service for children with life-limiting conditions 22 years ago at the Trust, before the team was merged with Diana community children's nursing service.
- **Catrina Walker**, Consultant Adult Psychotherapist, with 36 years' NHS service. She begun her NHS career in 1982 at Leicestershire Health Authority as an occupational therapist. She qualified as a psychotherapist in 1994.
- **Lynne Hartwell**, a Research bank nurse and retired health visitor, with 48 years' NHS service and shares her 70th birthday with the NHS. She started as a general nurse in 1967, and then moved into health visiting supporting travelling families before she retired and returned as a bank nurse.

Westminster-bound will be;

- **Susan Deakin**, moving and handling advisor and former acute nurse, with 35 years NHS service. She spent 22 years in acute nursing at LRI, before moving

to LPT 13 years ago to advise nurses on health and safety. Sue retires later this year.

- **Lucy Akam**, community hospital staff nurse, who has worked as an NHS nurse for 32 years. She currently works as a community nurse based out of Loughborough hospital.
- **Susan Lyons**, speech and language therapy clinical lead in learning disability services with 35 years' NHS service. She has worked as a speech and language therapist in the NHS since 1983 and will be retiring in the autumn.

In York, performances will be given by the NHS Greenwich and Lewisham choir who will singing their latest single, With a Little Help from My Friends; and Britain's Got Talent finalists, the B-Positive Choir.

Around 3,000 NHS staff from across the country are expected to attend the national ceremonies alongside representatives of charities, councils, and other key partners who work with the NHS.

Celebrations for the NHS milestone birthday are taking place up and down the country this week, recognising the achievements of the NHS over the last seven decades. Staff celebrations will be shining a light on the staff who are there to support and care for patients every day. LPT celebrations include

- tea parties in hospitals and community bases across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, including fundraising for our charity Raising Health.
- family health roadshows in local Asda stores, parks and childrens centres,
- a mental health history and art exhibition with tea party at Bradgate Unit (5 July)
- an NHS tea party for the public at Devonshire Place (5 July), and
- a joint family fun day with Leicester University (Saturday 7 July)

Sir Malcolm Grant, NHS England chairman, said: "The NHS's 1.5m staff work hard every day to keep the people of this country well and they deserve to be celebrated. We want to say a huge thank you for all the hard work and extra effort our staff have contributed over the last 70 years – without you we wouldn't be the world class service we are today."

Susan Deakin, one of the LPT attendees, said: "The last 35 years in the NHS has offered me personally opportunities that I would have never imagined when I started my nursing career all those years ago. However most importantly the NHS has not only given me a rewarding career but it has looked after my family through difficult and challenging times and has always been there when we needed it which is why it will be lovely to attend this day".

Dr Peter Miller, chief executive of LPT, said: "I am hugely proud of the services that we provide at LPT and in the wider NHS. Many of you have given your working lives to supporting others, creating the reputation that the NHS has for care and

compassion when we need it most. Thanks to you all for what you do each and every day. Happy birthday NHS!”

For more information about the birthday celebrations, including local events, visit: www.nhs70.nhs.uk.

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Note 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

For further information contact: Kamy Basra, head of communications, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0924, email: kamy.basra@leicspart.nhs.uk