

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

23 August 2019  
AMH.LD23\_19P

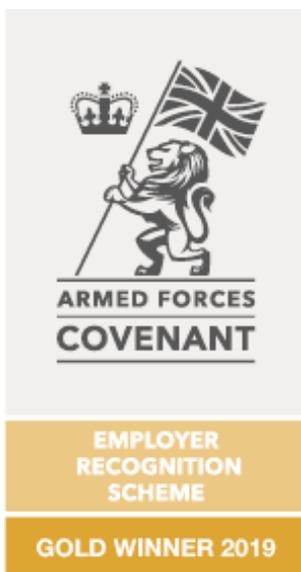
### Ministry of Defence gold award for LPT's armed forces support

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has been awarded a gold award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) in recognition of the support they give to the Armed Forces community.

It comes two years after the Trust, which provides mental health, learning disabilities and community health care, signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant – pledging to support military personnel past and present. LPT was awarded the ERS silver award in 2018.

Under the Defence ERS, employers support Defence personnel and encourage others to do the same. The scheme has three levels, bronze, silver and gold for organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support for Defence and the Armed Forces community.

Chief executive of the LPT, Angela Hillery, right, commented: "We are proud to receive our gold award through the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme. We are delighted with the progress we have made in just two years since signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant.



"The fact is that many serving and ex-service personnel and their families need support, are often unsure of what support is available to them and lack someone to talk to who understands. Many individuals go on suffering in silence.

"Our staff are working hard to make sure that veterans, serving personnel, reservists and military families get the best support and signposting from our Trust, either as service users, members of the public or as colleagues in LPT."

LPT has worked closely with the Armed Forces community to improve the understanding of the needs and priorities of Forces families and service leavers across the region.

The Trust is one of two gold award winners from Leicestershire. The other is Charnwood Borough Council. The award will be presented by a senior politician in a special ceremony in London later this year.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said: "These awards recognise the outstanding support for our armed forces from employers across Britain and I would like to thank and congratulate each and every one.

"Regardless of size, location or sector, employing ex-forces personnel is good for business and this year we have doubled the number of awards in recognition of the fantastic support they give."

Minister for Defence People and Veterans Johnny Mercer said: "Veterans make a huge contribution to businesses across the country and it's fantastic to see a record breaking number of organisations recognised for their support.

"We're working closely with businesses to help them further understand the huge value that veterans, reservists and military spouses can bring to their organisation."

John Wilson, the Ministry of Defence's Regional Employer Engagement Director for the East Midlands, said: "I'm thrilled that we can announce a record number of Gold Award winners for the region; both Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust have done lots of great work for the local Armed Forces community and I'm very pleased that those efforts have been recognised."

To find out more about the ERS and how your organisation could support Defence personnel in the workplace through the Armed Forces Covenant email John Wilson at [em-empsp@rfca.mod.uk](mailto:em-empsp@rfca.mod.uk) or call 0115 924 8627.

**ENDS**

---

## 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 £278 million and employ approximately 6,300 staff. For more information visit: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk). Our registered charity is called Raising Health (charity number 1057361). The charity fundraises to support 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. See [www.raisinghealth.org.uk](http://www.raisinghealth.org.uk)
- **For further information contact:** Sheila Ashton, communications manager, adult mental health and learning disabilities services, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0042, Mob: 0771 745 1271 Email: [sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk)

---

## 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 £278 million and employ approximately 6,300 staff. For more information visit: [www.leicspart.nhs.uk](http://www.leicspart.nhs.uk). Our registered charity is called Raising

Health (charity number 1057361). The charity fundraises to support 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. See [www.raisinghealth.org.uk](http://www.raisinghealth.org.uk)

- **For further information contact:** Sheila Ashton, communications manager, adult mental health and learning disabilities services, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0042, Mob: 0771 745 1271 Email: [sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk](mailto:sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk)