



**Better care together**

Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland health and social care

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **£900,000-plus boost for mental health crisis care**

Mental health crisis care for adults in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is to benefit from an annual boost of more than £900,000, thanks to a successful funding bid by the local clinical commissioning groups and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT).

The money, from NHS England's community crisis care transformation fund, will be used to expand the size and scope of LPT's crisis and home treatment support for adults.

The aim is to provide better access to urgent and emergency mental health assessments and intensive home treatment.

This will help more people to have the support they need in their own home, helping to avoid the need for hospital stays and reducing pressures on emergency departments.

LPT and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Groups and Turning Point worked together to develop the bid that secured the funding.

The service enhancements that LPT aims to achieve over the coming months include:

- **An increase** in the number of registered mental health practitioners (including mental health nurses and social workers) and support workers in the crisis service. A recruitment drive\* is underway with vacancies detailed on NHS Jobs and through LPT's social media channels.
- Increasing the availability of **dedicated medical support** for the crisis team
- The introduction of a **psychologist** in the team, providing additional expertise to the service.
- Daily reviews of patients' care by a **multi-disciplinary team**.
- **Helping carers** and signposting them to sources of support
- Providing intensive mental health care at home to allow people to safely **leave hospital earlier** than might otherwise be possible

- Working towards a system of **self-referral** over the next 12 – 18 months, providing people with direct access to assessment and signposting individuals to support.
- Provision, through LPT's partners at Turning Point, of a city-based drop-in '**crisis café**' services, expected to be operating over three nights a week by 2020

LPT service manager for adult mental health inpatient, crisis and liaison services, Chris Crane commented: "We are delighted to have successfully obtained extra funding for the crisis team.

"We are expanding the team significantly, with more registered mental health professionals, additional support workers, increased medical staffing and, for the first time, introducing a psychologist in the team.

"It means we will be able to increase the support we can offer people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland who experience mental health crisis. This will enable the team to offer an enhanced home treatment package for people needing extra support whilst in the community and for people who are leaving hospital after an acute mental health admission, This much-needed boost will benefit adults suffering from mental health issues by improving access and care across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland."

Sarah Warmington, associate director of commissioning for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, commented: "Our patients have told us it's really important that they have improved support to manage their mental health when in crisis. Securing funding is a really important step in helping us achieve that locally and we're delighted we've been successful.

"This much-needed additional investment will help ensure greater levels of support for people in the community and away from hospital wherever possible. Evidence shows us this can have significant benefits for patients and we believe this funding, along with the wider investments we're making to improve mental health services, will make a really positive difference to local people."

## 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)
- \*A recruitment drive is underway to expand the crisis team, with an additional 8.5 (equivalent) registered mental health practitioners and a 50% increase in the number of support workers.
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