

MEDIA RELEASE

3 February 2012
ES/00X/12

2 pages

Stonewall ranking marks trusts' drive for workplace equality

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT), with the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) PCT Cluster, have been ranked 12 out of 44 NHS organisations for work to tackle workplace discrimination against lesbian, gay and bisexual people.

The Stonewall Workplace Equality Index for 2012 index uses 109 criteria and 25 different questions to benchmark employers. The two NHS trusts came 130 out of 363 applications this year.

This was the first joint application by LPT and the LLR PCT Cluster following the PCT's 2011 first-time rank of 180.

Christina Marriott lead for the trusts' integrated equality service, commented: "The Stonewall Index is highly visible and a very important way for us to indicate we are dedicated to equality for lesbian, gay and bisexual members of staff.

"Our commitment is clear and, for a first application, we are happy with the result. With our ongoing work for LGB equality, we hope for a top 100 ranking next year. This will signal to current and potential members of staff our commitment to continue improving equality for LGB people."

LPT chief executive John Short said: "Equality for staff is important for its own sake but also because treating staff well is linked to getting good outcomes for patients and service users. We are very happy to be recognised by Stonewall and we will continue to work to make Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS a truly inclusive place to work."

LLR PCT Cluster chair Cathy Ellis added: “We are committed to ensuring our organisation is totally inclusive for staff and for all the communities we serve. Not only is the index one way we can signal this, but we can use it and our ongoing work with Stonewall, to action plan how we can improve still further. ”

For more information visit www.stonewall.org.uk

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.

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. In October 2010 NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland joined forces to form a ‘cluster’, in line with the requirements of the Department of Health. Although they share one Cluster Board and staff work across the city and county boundaries, they have not legally merged, and retain their separate statutory duties. Together they serve a population of more than a million people. Cluster formation is an interim stage in the reform of the NHS, involving ongoing transfer of most local commissioning functions to GP-led clinical commissioning groups, in line with the Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament and the House of Lords.

Issued by:

Sheila Ashton, communications specialist, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust

Tel: 0116 295 0042, Email : sheila.ashton@leicspart.nhs.uk