The Lindsay LegClub Foundation

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# Press Release

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## Health minister Lord Howe voices support for the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation at annual conference dinner

Health Minister Lord Howe took time out of his busy schedule to attend the Leg Club Foundation's annual conference dinner in September. The dinner was held at Worcester Rugby Club on the evening of the first day of the Leg Club Foundation annual conference.

In his after dinner speech, Lord Howe said that Leg Clubs played an important role in helping to end the isolation that many people endure once they have developed lower leg problems such as leg ulcers. "You should be proud of the work you do and the fact that you are changing the lives of people who would otherwise suffer in silence and no doubt end up costing the health service more in terms of ongoing treatment."

Ellie Lindsay, founder and lifetime president said the dinner was the finishing touch to a conference that gets better every year. This year's event attracted over 180 healthcare professionals – mostly nurses. She said that Lord Howe's speech reflected the direction of travel in the NHS and endorsed the Leg Club model as a community-led service that delivers better results than existing models of care.

**Patrons** Dr Timothy Cutler MA MB BChir FRCP FLS Baroness Masham of Ilton Mr Alistair McInnes BSc(Hons) DpodM HPC Regd Professor Christine Moffatt CBE PhD MA RGN DN Professor Richard White PhD
Charity registration number: 1111259 Registered office: 33 Lionel Street Birmingham West Midlands B3 1AB Company registration number: 05360413

## Notes to editors:

1) Leg ulcers (and other chronic leg problems like lymphoedema) can affect people at any age, but are particularly common in people over 60. At present, over 80 per cent of all leg ulcers are treated in patients' own homes by district nurses or by practice nurses in GP surgeries. However, patients often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence of the ulcer. Many leg ulcers consequently reoccur, or remain unhealed for many months or even years.

2) The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation exists to promote the national development of Leg Clubs. The Foundation also provides the necessary support and training for nurses to establish Leg Clubs and follow the Foundation's guidelines, as well as ongoing training in new developments in leg care.

3) The Leg Club is an innovative model of care that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic leg conditions. By healing chronic leg wounds and keeping them healed, Leg Clubs also have the potential to save commissioners up to 80 per cent of their wound care budget in comparison with conventional leg ulcer treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of members and local people, each Leg Club operates according to strict guidelines of care, monitored by the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation. The Leg Club title, the wording and logo are protected by Registered Trade Mark in the UK and Australia.

**For further information about the Leg Club Foundation and Leg Clubs visit:**
**www.legclub.org**

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