Press Release

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House of Commons Emergency Lower Limb Wound Care Debate pays tribute to the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation

An Emergency Lower Limb Wound Care Debate was held in the House of Commons on July 23rd, during which the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation was acknowledged for its work in community-based leg ulcer care. The debate was secured and attended by Anne Clwyd MP, who has recently become aware of the escalating issue of wound care through her own experience.

She said: “Wound care is a massive challenge to the NHS, but it currently lacks priority, investment and direction. I want to push the Government, on the need for urgent action and the development of a strategy across care providers to improve the standard of wound care.”

Having left hospital, where she was receiving treatment for her lower limb condition, to attend the debate Ms Clwyd stated that she had known “nothing as painful as this leg wound”. She went on to explain the research she had undertaken to find out more about wound care treatment. This included discovering that there was an all-party group (APPG) on vascular and venous disease, which she went on to attend. At the APPG Ms Clwyd listened to a presentation given by Ellie Lindsay OBE outlining the issues of the patient voice not being heard and some of the challenges she had encountered in this area. She also learnt about the work of the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation.

She said: “I am grateful that so many good people are working in this area and highlighting its importance. It is probably not as glamorous as others in the health service, but it is absolutely necessary for people’s wellbeing, comfort and health, and I hope we can do a lot more to support people in this area, to support new initiatives and to assist the doctors, nurses and other practitioners who do such an excellent job.”

The Minister for Care, Caroline Dineage MP, also praised the work of the LLCF and said how pleased she was that members of the Foundation were on the committee for the lower limb clinical work stream of the national wound care strategy programme.

She said: “I can imagine that when this condition starts it is so painful that people can feel extremely alone and isolated, and the provision of Leg Clubs and other support mechanisms in the community, to offer the information, advice and support that they need, can help them to stop feeling that isolation and fear.”

The full debate can be read below:

https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2019-07-23/debates/A6F01FEB-40D2-4B6F-B597-1EBA45CA64CD/LowerLimbWoundCare

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1) Problems of the lower limb, 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, individuals often find it difficult to adhere to treatment plans, or to maintain the preventive measures needed to avert recurrence of lower limb problems or their leg 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 psychosocial Leg Club model for lower limb care is an innovative model that has been shown to improve the health and wellbeing of people with chronic lower limb 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 lower limb treatment. A Leg Club is a local partnership between practice and community nurses, patients and members of the community. Run by a committee of volunteers, 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.

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

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