



Leicestershire Partnership
NHS Trust

MEDIA RELEASE

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A-maze-ing support for LPT's Diana anniversary appeal

In keeping with the theme of this year's NHS 70th birthday design for the Wistow Maze, maze owner Diana Brooks is kindly supporting Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT)'s Diana Children's Community Service 20th anniversary appeal by displaying banners in the grounds of the maze. Seven year old Elliott Raynor, whose photo features on the campaign banner, was also given free tickets so that he could visit the maze with his family.



Elliott has cystic fibrosis, and two years ago had a port-a-cath fitted. This small medical device is placed beneath the skin to provide direct access to a central vein for the administration of medication or for blood samples to be taken. The port-a-cath needs to be flushed out regularly, requiring visits to hospital every four weeks.

Elliott (front), pictured with (L-R): Ann Brown, mum April, Diana Brooks and sister Kathryn

Unfortunately Elliott became increasingly needle-phobic and would get extremely distressed when the procedures were carried out. His distress started to mean he was no longer sleeping or eating well. Following a referral to LPT's Diana Children's Community Service, Elliott has worked with family support practitioner Ann Brown over the last 18 months.

Ann supported Elliott to write a therapeutic story, enabling him to express his fear. Using a specially adapted doll and a real port-a cath, Ann helped Elliott to explore exactly how the equipment works. Together they agreed a plan for the family and nurses to follow when taking bloods via the port-a-cath or flushing it out. This helped him to feel more in control. Ann also taught Elliott breathing techniques and coping strategies which help to calm him. Arrangements have also been made for the procedures to be carried out at home by nurses from the Diana team so that he doesn't have to go into hospital so often.

April Raynor, Elliott's mother, said: "The Diana Service is the best thing ever! Ann has completely turned him around. He's now a confident little boy and not at all frightened. It's a huge relief for the whole family."

The Diana Community Children's Service includes nurses, physiotherapists and specialist support practitioners like Ann, who support children with long-term illnesses and with end of life care. The service, which is named after Princess Diana, celebrates its 20th anniversary in January. To mark the anniversary, LPT has launched a special appeal to raise money for specific resources and equipment which will enhance the care the service provides throughout a child's illness and at the end of life. On the wish-list are items which are beyond the scope of core NHS provision (like the special dolls which can be adapted with the port-a-cath), but have a massive impact for children and families. Find out more about the appeal at www.raisinghealth.org.uk



Diana Brooks, owner of Wistow maze said: "The maze is all about families having fun together, so we were delighted to welcome Elliott and his family to the maze. It's a brilliant appeal."

One of the country's largest maize mazes, Wistow Maze has been named Leicestershire's "Best Visitor Attraction", and is open daily until Sunday 2 September, and then at weekends only until Sunday 23 September.

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 £275 million and employ approximately 5,500 staff. For more information visit: 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

- Find out more about Wistow Maze at www.wistow.com
- **For further information contact:** Rosie Huckle, Communications Manager for Families, Young People and Children's Services, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Tel: 0116 295 0802, Email: rosie.huckle@leicspart.nhs.uk