

Keeping it local in Yorkshire



Adam Bushby
Senior Editor,
Wounds International

After moving back to the north of England and moving in with my girlfriend after 12 fantastic years in the big smoke of London, I'm reconnecting with my home county of Yorkshire. It's taken time to get accustomed with full-time home working, but my little office is proving a success as I get used to spending the hours working on various publications and being organised in terms of infrastructure and time management.

By chance, I came across a story of the first Leg Club being set up in Otley, which is only a 20-minute drive from my house (Jack, 2018). The Leg Club is based on the award-winning model that was created by Ellie Lindsay OBE, which has been a huge success since its inception in 1995. Underlining the strides taken by the Leg Club model, it has gone international, showing that focusing on wound care at the local level can be an effective strategy across borders; indeed, the model has travelled beyond British shores to Germany and Australia. The Leg Ulcer model really is finding new frontiers in wound care.

The news spurred me to make a mental link between my move away from the bright lights to the relatively rural Tingley, and the fact that the Leg Club model is similar in that it moves the focus of wound care from the busy hospital setting towards a more grass roots level.

Delivered by nursing staff from Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Chevin and Westgate GP Surgeries, with additional support provided by Otley Action for Older People, the All Legs Allowed initiative enables the treatment of lower leg conditions in a non-clinical, community-based setting. In addition to providing care for the lower limbs, the Otley Leg Club will focus on isolation and loneliness that older people with leg and pressure ulcers can experience, providing opportunities to mix with others through a programme of regular activities.

Julie Rooney, practice nurse at Chevin Surgery explained: "This is a really important and exciting partnership that we hope will help patients in Leeds become more involved in the care they receive. Every week, two nurses will be on hand to provide self-care advice and treatment for hard-to-heal leg problems. This could involve

changing dressings and providing wound care and leg ulcer treatment."

Meanwhile, Ellie stated: "We are delighted that the benefits of the Leg Club model have been recognised by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and Chevin and Westgate Surgeries with support from Otley Action for Older People. This is our first Leg Club in West Yorkshire and, in fact, the north of England, which is another reason to celebrate its opening. The Leg Club's focus on individual members at a local level is one of the reasons for the continued growth in the network of Leg Clubs."

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation website (<https://www.legclub.org>) offers the latest news regarding leg clubs, as well as offering practical advice on how to set up a Leg Club. Evidence has shown that patient-centred care is a vital part of providing successful treatment for people with chronic leg wounds. In conjunction with the World Union of Healing Societies (WUWHS), The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation created a report calling for the creation of a universal charter of patient rights, which should be adopted by all clinicians involved in the world of wound care treatment (The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation and WUWHS, 2017).

By providing a local focus on an international scale, the foundation has found an effective way to encourage patient empowerment, while dealing with an aspect of wound care encountered by clinicians the world over in a cost-effective and simple way. Long may this local focus continue. WINT

Jim Jack (2018) *Pioneering New Leg Club Opens in Otley*, Wharfedale and Aireborough Observer, March 9, 2018. Available at: <https://bit.ly/2vlbgz5> (accessed 16.04.2018)

The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation and the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (2017) *Patient-Centred Care – A Call to Action for Wound Management*. Available at: <https://www.legclub.org/uploads/files/files/WUWHS%20infographic%20Leg%20Club%20Patient-Centred%20Care.pdf> (accessed 16.04.2018)

Adam Bushby
Senior Editor, Wounds International

If you would like to contribute to a future issue of the journal, please contact Adam Bushby, Senior Editor, Wounds International, at: abushby@omniamed.com