

As wound care changes, how do clinicians change with it?

The Leg Club Foundation (CRN1111259) is committed to improving outcomes for people living with lower limb conditions and leg ulcers through the dissemination and implementation of the psychosocial Lindsay Leg Club Model for lower limb care. As a modern third sector organisation, the Foundation recognises that education, public health awareness, and collaborative learning are now central responsibilities for both charities and healthcare industry partners.

Current NHS priorities, integrated care systems, and public health strategies place significant emphasis on reducing health inequalities, improving supportive self-management, championing community-based care, and strengthening multidisciplinary education. The psychosocial Leg Club model directly supports these priorities by combining clinical lower limb care with social interaction, health education, wellbeing support, and peer engagement within local communities. Through this approach, individuals are encouraged to become active participants in their own care, improving health awareness, concordance, prevention, and long-term outcomes.

With the introduction of the NHS Ten Year Plan: fit for purpose the Foundation has therefore evolved its role beyond implementation of the Leg Club model but to liaise and collaborate with organisation that support clinicians, volunteers, patients, carers, and local communities through shared learning and evidence-based practice.

Collaborative partnership with the health care industry

Healthcare industry partners are increasingly expected to contribute responsibly to clinical education, innovation, research, sustainability, and ethical partnership working. A key example of this collaborative approach is the Foundation's unique Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIP) initiative, which enables healthcare companies to work collectively in an open and non-competitive environment to support education, service improvement, and innovation in lower limb care to Leg Club clinical teams and volunteers.

As healthcare commissioners increasingly turn to the Third Sector to deliver innovative, person-centred services, opportunities for

meaningful collaboration between charitable organisations and commercial healthcare partners continue to expand. While charities and commercial organisations may enter partnerships with different objectives, both share a common interest in delivering sustainable, high-quality care. The Charity Commission recognises that charities should approach such collaborations with confidence, ensuring that partnerships are transparent, ethical and capable of delivering measurable value to the communities they serve.

This collaborative enterprise has created a powerful platform which reflects across healthcare has enabled the Foundation to focus on improving public health, person centred outcomes, supporting clinical education, and contributing positively to community healthcare systems through many different approaches e.g social media and dissemination of leaflets etc.

Also, the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation represents a strong example of how strategic collaboration between healthcare professionals, industry and the voluntary sector can create long-term impact for individuals in our care and local communities.

Background to the LCIP membership 2004-to date

Partnership working has been embedded within the Leg Club model since its inception in Suffolk in May 1995. From the outset, several healthcare companies provided professional support, recognising the potential of the model to transform community-based leg care and improve quality of life for individuals requiring care.

As awareness of the Leg Club model grew through professional journals, conferences and clinical networks, interest rapidly expanded across the UK. This increasing demand highlighted the need for a formal infrastructure capable of supporting wider dissemination, maintaining standards and sustaining future growth.

As founder of the social approach to lower limb care (Leg Club) in line with the then UKCC Clause 16 Code of Practice, representatives from the healthcare industry were invited to participate in a series of structured discussions exploring how the existing partnership approach could evolve.



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Over a 6-month period, this multidisciplinary group of experts worked collaboratively to shape a sustainable model for future development while simultaneously raising the profile of Leg Clubs nationally. The outcome of this collaboration was the establishment of a coalition of committed healthcare companies that pledged support for the creation of a formal charitable organisation. This led to the registration of The Lindsay Leg Club Foundation with the Central Register of Charities in September 2005, providing a robust and credible framework to advance the Leg Club model on a larger scale.

Developing a successful collaborative partnership required careful planning, shared vision and a commitment to long-term change. Key challenges included establishing an effective governance structure, identifying appropriate resources, fostering trust among partners and creating opportunities that delivered value for all stakeholders.

To date the LCIP team is continuing to improve the content and accessibility of training and educational materials available on the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation website www.legclub.org. Social media platforms create interactive learning environments that extend beyond traditional classroom boundaries. Individuals can access educational content at any time and engage with learning materials in ways that suit their individual learning styles. This flexibility has proven particularly valuable in supporting diverse learning needs for both clinical teams and the public who wish to access clinical information. As part of this ongoing work, the educational resources featured within the LCIP Training Courses section are being updated to ensure they remain engaging, accessible, and relevant for all learners.

Central to the success of the Foundation has been a strong commitment to ethical practice and professional integrity. The Foundation, healthcare professionals and industry partners operate within established guidelines, codes and governance frameworks to ensure that all activity remains transparent, mutually beneficial and, above all, person- focused.

The Leg Club Industry Partners (LCIP) adhere to a clearly defined code of conduct that outlines responsibilities within the partnership and safeguards against conflicts of interest or undue commercial influence. This framework has enabled industry partners to contribute constructively across all areas of Foundation activity while maintaining professional and ethical standards.

Through this collaborative approach,

LCIP members actively support the wider Leg Club network by contributing to national conferences, educational workshops, parliamentary showcases and joint learning initiatives. Their involvement has strengthened the visibility, credibility and sustainability of the Leg Club model while helping to promote innovation and best practice in community leg care across the UK.

The educational landscape is undergoing a remarkable transformation, with social media emerging as a powerful force in reshaping how we teach and learn. The healthcare landscape continues to shift towards integrated, measurable, and preventative models of care. Within this environment, charities and industry partners are increasingly accountable for demonstrating social value, educational impact, governance, sustainability, and patient-centred outcomes. The Foundation and LCIP members therefore remain committed to continuous quality improvement through ongoing website access education, innovation, current research, and collaborative partnership working.

Importantly, modern educational responsibilities are no longer limited to healthcare professionals alone. There is growing recognition that volunteers, carers, patients, and local communities all play an important role in improving public health outcomes. Hence, the Leg Club model supports this wider educational agenda by creating inclusive community environments where learning, social support, prevention, and wellbeing are embedded into everyday care delivery.

As recognised by the Charity Commission, charities should not underestimate the value they bring to partnerships with commercial organisations. Ethical collaboration between charities and industry can deliver significant benefits when relationships are transparent, values-driven, and focused on improving patient care, education, and community outcomes.



Scan the QR code above to access the Lindsay Leg Club Foundation website

Figures 1, 2 and 3. Examples of Leg Club Code and public information leaflets



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

The Foundation also works closely with NHS and Foundation Trust provider services, private healthcare organisations, universities, researchers, and international wound care bodies including the European Wound Management Association, World Union of Wound Healing Societies, and the vWIN Foundation. In partnership with the SDMA, collaborative activities now include research development, shared educational platforms, clinical training opportunities, public awareness campaigns, and dissemination of best practice in tissue viability and lower limb management.

Since 2004, the Foundation has successfully demonstrated how collaborative partnerships can support sustainable healthcare innovation while maintaining the integrity and independence of a charitable organisation.

Conclusion

The future of lower limb care depends upon collaborative, education-focused partnerships

between charities, healthcare providers, academic institutions, industry, and local communities. Modern healthcare requires organisations to move beyond traditional service models towards approaches that prioritise prevention, health literacy, workforce development, person centred empowerment, and measurable community impact.

Through the Lindsay Leg Club Model, the Foundation continues to demonstrate how integrated education, community engagement, research, and partnership working can improve clinical outcomes, reduce social isolation, strengthen public health awareness, and enhance quality of life for individuals living with lower limb conditions.





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