Press Release – September 13 2012

Local specialist wound care nurses join forces with West Midlands charity

At a conference held this week (Tues, Sept 11) nearly 100 healthcare professionals from the county joined forces with a new West Midlands charity ‘Woundcare4Heroes’ to help raise awareness of the latest treatment and prevention of patient wounds and pressure sores.

In Herefordshire and across the West Midlands healthcare staff have embarked on a programme of “ambitions” to ensure high-quality care and patient safety, including the elimination of preventable pressure sores by December this year.

Nurses, residential and nursing home staff and speakers from other organisations attended the event organised by the tissue viability team at Wye Valley NHS Trust.

Presenting at the event was the chief executive of ‘Woundcare4Heroes’ former army captain, Claire Stephens. This new West Midlands charity provides specialised complex wound care services for people injured in the service of their country. The charity also aims to educate healthcare professionals on the treatment of complex wound management based on their experience of treating the wounds of injured service personnel.

Jo-Anna Grove, tissue viability clinical nurse specialist at Wye Valley NHS Trust, said: “Wounds and pressure sores can occur for many reasons such as lack of mobility and poor diet. They can be very painful and may lead to serious infections. We take a proactive approach to preventing pressure sores for our patients in hospital and at home.

“By bringing together our innovations and best practice we are able to provide our patients and healthcare staff with the latest wound prevention advice, treatment, education and training”.

She added that the best way to prevent pressure sores is to eat a healthy diet, change position often if using a wheelchair or spending a lot of time sitting or lying down, keep skin clean, dry and moisturised, and check skin several times a day for red areas, particularly over bony areas. People should contact their carer or nurse if they have any concerns regarding their skin condition.

To find out more information about Woundcare4Heroes visit www.woundcare4heroes.org.uk

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Notes to editor:

- Wye Valley NHS Trust is the first integrated provider of hospital, community and adult social care services in the NHS in England. The Trust exists to improve the wellbeing, independence and health of the people we serve. We are the leading provider of health and social care in Herefordshire. By combining hospital, community and adult social care
services, we can make good our promise to deliver a quality of care we would want for ourselves, our families and our friends.

- With an estimated annual turnover of around £160million, we employ around 3000 plus staff. As the first integrated provider of acute, community and social care in England, we aim to build new relationships between our staff, patients, service users and their carers, and with the wider community.

For further information please contact:
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**Pic caption:**

Jo-Anna Grove, who organised the conference to raise awareness of the latest treatment and prevention of patient wounds and pressure sores.