

NEWS RELEASE

The St Leonard's Practice, Exeter, selected to take part in programme to increase continuity of care in general practice

Embargoed until 10.00am on Wednesday 7th November 2018

The St Leonard's Practice, Exeter, has been selected by the Health Foundation, an independent charity, to be part of its new programme exploring how to increase continuity of care in general practice.

The 'Increasing Continuity of Care in General Practice' programme is supporting five large-scale GP practices and federations with grants of up to £250,000 to carry out targeted improvement work to increase continuity in their practices to help bring benefits to both staff and patients.

Each project will run for up to two years. The programme has been developed with the advice and support of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

The Continuity Counts project led by St Leonard's Practice, Exeter, aims to improve continuity in five Devon general practices. This will be achieved by increasing the measurement of continuity, sharing research which shows its benefits and supporting staff in each practice throughout the project. There will be detailed evaluation.

Sir Denis Pereira Gray, Professor and project leader from the St Leonard's Research Practice Exeter, said: "The Practice is honoured to have been chosen by the Health Foundation to lead this project in Devon. At a time when so much attention is being paid to machines and technology, it is most encouraging to see this new emphasis on the human side of medicine."

Sarah Henderson, Assistant Director of Improvement Programmes at the Health Foundation, said: "We are excited to be able to support these teams as they develop their quality improvement projects over the next two years."

"Despite the significant pressures faced by those working in general practice, each of the teams is committed to finding ways to increase continuity of care and to demonstrating the benefits that it can bring."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors:**About the Health Foundation**

The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

Our aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people's lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.

We make links between the knowledge we gain from working with those delivering health and health care and our research and analysis. Our aspiration is to create a virtuous circle, using what we know works on the ground to inform effective policymaking and vice versa. We believe good health and health care are key to a flourishing society. Through sharing what we learn, collaborating with others and building people's skills and knowledge, we aim to make a difference and contribute to a healthier population.

www.health.org.uk

About the St Leonard's Practice, Exeter

The St Leonard's Practice has nearly 10,000 NHS patients, seven Managing Partners, a Nurse Practitioner, a Manager, and a team of admin staff and works from purpose-planned premises. It has twice been rated as outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The Practice has long had a strong interest in both research and teaching for both medical students and doctors training in general practice, with substantial links with the University of Exeter. Since 1986 five of the Managing Partners have been appointed Professors in the University and the academic team managing this project includes two of them, both former Senior Partners in the Practice. The Practice maintains an active research wing with a dedicated room and employs a Research Fellow with a PhD who will be part of the management team.

The Practice has a long interest in researching continuity of care and coined the term "personal lists" in 1979. Practice staff have had 14 articles published on continuity including two international collaborations. Its most recent research on continuity, linking it with lower mortality, was published from the Practice by open access in June 2018 and has already had 44,000 world-wide downloads.