



Seven took up challenge

When the opportunity arose for NHS services to go into business as social enterprises, a team of seven started Accelerate CIC in November 2011.

SEE BELOW

Commissioning group

Tower Hamlets CCG is responsible for commissioning planned hospital care, maternity and mental health services.

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News

A care centre like no other

BY JESSICA ODUBAYO

MORE than 60 clinicians and patients attended the opening of a care and treatment centre for patients with complex wounds and lymphoedema.

Accelerate CIC, a social enterprise that was formerly part of the NHS, operates the centre at Mile End Hospital.

Lymphoedema is a chronic long-term condition that causes swelling in the body's tissues.

Known locally as the wound care or lymphoedema team, many of the staff have worked in the borough since 1994. They work closely with district and practice nurses, and nursing homes, as well as seeing patients who have hard-to-heal wounds or chronic swelling.

The launch event on Thursday, September 24 featured educational sessions for clinicians and stalls where



Staff at the reception desk in the new Accelerate CIC treatment centre

visitors could find out more about compression garments and a borough-wide dressing scheme.

Speakers included Sir Sam Everington, chair of Tower Hamlets Clinical

Commissioning Group, and Karen Friett, chief executive of the Lymphoedema Support Network.

Alison Hopkins, chief executive of Accelerate CIC, said she was delighted



Chief executive Alison Hopkins

with the opening of the first centre of excellence for complex wound and lymphoedema care in London.

"This is great news for local residents and patients from further afield," she said.

News in brief

ESTEEM extension

A PILOT healthcare scheme has been extended until the end of the year.

ESTEEM self-care and self-management services, provided by a partnership of health and social care organisations in Tower Hamlets, will run until December.

Commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group, the services include:

- Harmony – a community singing group for those living with mental ill-health;
- Coping Options – a course helping to build self-esteem;
- Diabetes and Mental Health – group and individual support;
- Living with Hoarding;
- Living with Alcohol.

To find out how to use ESTEEM services, call Community Options on 8333 9725 or email enquiry@community-options.org.uk