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## **LYMPHOEDEMA SUPPORT NETWORK AWARDED £25,000 BY GLAXOSMITHKLINE**

Lymphoedema Support Network (LSN), a London-based charity providing support and information for lymphoedema sufferers, has been awarded a prestigious GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Award worth £25,000.

The annual awards, run in association with the independent health charity the King's Fund, are in their 11<sup>th</sup> year and recognise and reward the work of small to medium sized charities that are doing excellent work to improve the health of their communities.

LSN is one of ten charities to beat over 400 entrants from across the UK, and its work will be formally recognised at a ceremony in London's National Gallery on April 29<sup>th</sup>. At the event an overall winner will be announced who receives an additional £10,000.

LSN is a national charity providing information and support. It runs a telephone helpline, produces a range of high quality information resources and works to raise awareness of lymphoedema and campaign for better national standards of care. Lymphoedema is caused by an impaired lymphatic system and occurs when fluid does not drain from tissue but builds up and causes swelling. Most of the underlying causes are irreversible and there is no cure. Lymphoedema is a chronic condition affecting over 100,000 people in the UK and is physically uncomfortable, painful and psychologically distressing.

Founded in 1991 by a group of patients at the Royal Marsden Hospital, LSN is the largest information resource for lymphoedema in the UK. In 1995 it had just one fact-sheet and an information pack for health professionals. It now has 22 fact sheets and two self-help videos/DVDs.

Karen Friett, Development Manager at LSN commented: "We are extremely excited to have received this GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Award. It is testament to the excellent work all involved with the organisation do. To have outside organisations assess us and recognise the worth of the services we deliver is a rare pat on the back for us all, and spurs us on to continue delivering the best services we can."

Anita Wallace, Chair at LSN, said: "Winning this award has given us all a tremendous boost. Not only does it bring further recognition of our work in educating patients, healthcare professionals, MPs and the Department of Health, but it will also be invaluable in helping to raise the profile of lymphoedema."

LSN has been particularly successful at influencing national policy, having lobbied hard to get lymphoedema on the agenda with the Government and the Department of Health. Much of LSN's information is now requested by healthcare professionals for use in hospitals and clinics.

Katie Pinnock, Director of UK Corporate Contributions at GlaxoSmithKline, said: "Lymphoedema is quite a hidden and ignored problem where people often don't get much support or advice. What Lymphoedema Support Network has done is create a centre of excellence for information, support and advice, not just for those suffering, but also for those treating them. It has clearly made a huge difference to sufferers' lives and all our judges were in agreement that it was deserving of an award."

Niall Dickson, Chief Executive of the King's Fund, commented: "This organisation has made a real difference to the lives of people with lymphoedema and their families. As well as the practical side, which is so important, it has raised the profile of a neglected area and brought it to the attention of those who shape policy."

This year, through the IMPACT Awards, GlaxoSmithKline has given £300,000 to community health charities. Ten winning charities receive £25,000, five highly commended are awarded £5,000 and five runners up £3,000. This year also sees the launch of the GSK IMPACT Awards Development Network, run in partnership with the King's Fund, which provides training workshops for the winning and highly commended charities.

Over the last 11 years, GlaxoSmithKline has recognised 220 community healthcare charities in the UK, with awards totaling more than £2 million. The aim is to support those working at the cutting edge of health care, dealing with some of the most difficult and distressing social issues, and helping to improve the health of communities across the UK.

For more information about Lymphoedema Support Network visit: [www.lymphoedema.org/lsn](http://www.lymphoedema.org/lsn)

**ENDS**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About GlaxoSmithKline**

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is one of the world's leading pharmaceutical and healthcare companies and is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. In 2007, GlaxoSmithKline's community investments were valued at £282 million (the

equivalent to almost 4% of pre-tax profits) and targeted health and education programmes in almost 100 countries. GlaxoSmithKline is one off the largest charitable givers in the FTSE 100 .

For more information please visit: [www.gsk.com/community](http://www.gsk.com/community)

### **About the King's Fund**

The King's Fund is an independent charitable foundation working for better health, especially in London. It carries out research, policy analysis and development activities, working on its own, in partnerships, and through funding. It is a major resource to people working in health, offering leadership development programmes; seminars and workshops; publications; information and library services; and conference and meeting facilities.

For more information please visit: <http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/>

### **About the GlaxoSmithKline IMPACT Awards**

The name 'IMPACT' derives from the criteria that winners must have demonstrated in their application submissions: **I**nnovation, **M**anagement, **P**artnership, **A**chievement, **C**ommunity Focus and **T**argeting **N**eed.

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