

## **News release**

Monday October 31, 2011

For immediate release

### **Take care during fun fortnight of celebrations**

With children dressing up as ghostly ghouls and creepy creatures and joining in this year's Halloween activities as well as Bonfire Night parties and Diwali celebrations, safety is at the top of the agenda.

Public health officials from the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster are urging parents to accompany children when trick or treating this year and ensure Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali celebrations are properly supervised by adults.

Dr Tim Davies, deputy director of public health speaking on behalf of the Cluster, said: "This time of year can be tremendous fun for youngsters and adults but it can also be extremely dangerous if children are left unsupervised.

"With Diwali celebrations already in full swing and Halloween and Bonfire Night fast approaching, it is important parents do not leave their children unsupervised when trick or treating or when watching fireworks, using sparklers and lanterns. A few simple precautions could mean the difference between a fun night out and a trip to the emergency department."

Ben Teasdale, clinical lead for emergency medicine at Leicester's hospitals, said: "Halloween, Bonfire Night and Diwali are well known for their colourful celebrations, fireworks and lanterns and it's a great opportunity for us all to enjoy ourselves.

"However, accidents can happen so we should all follow some simple steps to stay safe, such as supervising children making decorations, wearing gloves when handling sparklers, not giving sparklers to children under five and supervising the use of sky lanterns."

With loud fireworks being let off and people trick or treating, parents and youngsters should also be mindful that some elderly residents or people that live on their own can find this time of year distressing.

For more information on the Firework Code visit <http://bit.ly/aJSUQg>

ENDS

**For interviews or more information please contact media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 7677 or [liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk](mailto:liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk) or senior media officer Caroline Higgs on 0116 295 7663 or [caroline.higgs@lcr.nhs.uk](mailto:caroline.higgs@lcr.nhs.uk).**

Notes to editor:

In October 2010 NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland joined forces to form a 'cluster', in line with the requirements of the Department of Health.

Although we share one Cluster Board and our staff work across the city and county boundaries, we have not legally merged, and retain our separate statutory duties. Together we serve a population of more than a million people. Cluster formation is an interim stage in the reform of the NHS, involving on-going transfer of most local commissioning functions to GP-led clinical commissioning groups, in line with the Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament and the House of Lords.