5th November 2026

Health sector comes together to celebrate 25 years of NHS LIFT Programme supporting neighbourhood health

- **Westminster event held to mark anniversary of vital programme that has delivered 350 neighbourhood health buildings across England since 2001**
- **New report sets out the key achievements of NHS LIFT over the last 25 years and its important future role in neighbourhood health delivery**



Key partners from across the health sector came together at the House of Lords yesterday afternoon to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the NHS LIFT programme - a public-private-partnership that has delivered high-quality neighbourhood health facilities across England for the last 25 years.

Established in 2001, with public infrastructure in need of radical investment, the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (NHS LIFT) brought together the private and public sectors to deliver high-quality Primary healthcare and community facilities via long term joint venture investment partnerships. LIFT buildings are delivered by private investors (who design, build, finance and maintain these assets, taking all building performance risk) working in partnership with Community Healthcare Partnerships (CHP) - the Government owned company that holds a 40% stake in these NHS assets and who operates as the local head tenant.

An anniversary event was hosted in the House of Lords by **The LIFT Council** (the membership body for private investors in the LIFT Programme) and **Lord Keith Bradley**, bringing together a range of guests from the public and private sectors - including representatives from Government, the NHS, investors and other key health partners - to celebrate LIFT's achievements over the last 25 years. Alongside this, The LIFT Council **published a new report** looking at the 'Past, Present and Future of LIFT' with some key takeaways:

- **A successful, value-for-money PPP model delivering 350 health buildings -** NHS LIFT has delivered 350 new healthcare buildings over the last 25 years, with 9 in every 10 LIFT buildings in areas with above average health needs, delivering vital facilities to those that need them most. Having secured £2.5 billion of private investment, for just £100m of public money, NHS LIFT is one of the most successful PPP models to-date and has been independently reviewed to demonstrate value for money;

- **A LIFT estate that continues to serve millions of patients at the frontline of Primary Care -** the 350 LIFT health centres are located in the heart of the community, ensuring millions of patients can continue to access care in an accessible, convenient location. As modern, flexible buildings, many LIFT health centres also continue to be adapted to meet changing health needs, including bringing key screening and diagnostic services out of major hospitals and into a neighbourhood setting;

- **A vital foundation for future neighbourhood health delivery -** a number of NHS LIFT buildings have already been selected to become some of the first new neighbourhood health centres announced by Government, ensuring the LIFT estate continues to be at the heart of future neighbourhood health provision. In addition, the LIFT estate is already playing a key role in Government ambitions for the NHS to shift from hospital to community care, from sickness to prevention, and from analogue to digital.

Speaking at the LIFT 25th anniversary event, **Minister of State for Health Karin Smyth MP said:** *"The NHS LIFT programme recognised a really important need – the need for the poorest communities to have access to the best possible facilities and care. LIFT was a pragmatic solution to use public sector assets with private sector finance and expertise – it was a great ambition, and it has delivered. LIFT has been at the frontline of neighbourhood health since 2001 and as we now look to new partnership models, everything we've learned over the last 25 years through LIFT will be crucial in shaping the next wave of neighbourhood health services."*

Lord Bradley said: *"Throughout my many years in politics and healthcare, it is rare to find a piece of public policy that continues to resonate long after it was first created, but the NHS LIFT programme does exactly that. LIFT has not only delivered vital health facilities for millions of patients over the last 25 years, it is also a programme that will continue to have a lasting impact long into the next chapter of the NHS. As we now look to the health ambitions of the future, LIFT offers an important springboard for success and a firm foundation for the next 25 years of neighbourhood health."*

Former Health Secretary Alan Johnson said: *"NHS LIFT has been a huge success story that has gone by largely unnoticed, but it has transformed health care across the country. As we mark the 25th anniversary of LIFT, the Department of Health can look back on LIFT as the right thing to do but so too can Treasury – for £100m of public money we got £2.5bn of private investment in vital health facilities. It has been a hugely successful public-private-partnership and an important foundation to keep delivering the best NHS care for those that need it most."*

Chair of The LIFT Council Sarah Beaumont-Smith said: *"It is an honour to mark the 25th anniversary of NHS LIFT and to celebrate the vital role it has played in supporting neighbourhood health over the last 25 years. At the heart of LIFT's success has been partnership working between the private and public sectors so as the Government now looks to new partnership models in health, the experiences and lessons learned from NHS LIFT will be crucial in shaping the next wave of neighbourhood health services. All of the key partners in the NHS LIFT Programme stand ready to support the Government in ensuring the next 25 years of neighbourhood health delivery continue to be a success."*

Wendy Farrington-Chadd, CEO Community Health said: *"The 25th anniversary of the NHS LIFT Programme is an important milestone, and a chance to reflect on what has been achieved over that time. With our partners, we have delivered hundreds of high-quality health facilities that continue to support patients, staff and communities across England every day. Looking ahead, these buildings will continue to play an important role in supporting neighbourhood health, and we remain focused on securing them for the future so they can continue to meet the needs of patients and communities in the years ahead."*

Dr Dan Harman, Consultant Community Geriatrician at the Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre (delivered under NHS LIFT in 2018), said: *"The Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre is truly a neighbourhood asset. In the last eight years, over 20,000 people have received proactive care, reducing the need for hospital admissions and acute care. The building enables us to have a specialist team delivering evidence-based interventions to the many who can benefit - without it, none of this would be possible."*

- Ends -

- A copy of the 25th anniversary report on the NHS LIFT programme can be downloaded from here
- The LIFT Council (theliftcouncil.co.uk) is the membership body for private sector partners in the NHS LIFT programme - it offers a collective, private sector voice in discussions with Government and the NHS on the future of the LIFT estate and the vital role it can continue to play in neighbourhood health delivery.
- The LIFT Council brings together a range of experienced investors with a 25-year track record of delivering high-quality neighbourhood health facilities. Members include AMP Infrastructure, BBGi, Dalmore Capital, Equity Solutions, Equitix, Eric Wright Partnerships, Fulcrum Infrastructure Group, gbpartnerships group, Guildhouse UK Ltd, Infracare LIFT, Prime, Resolis and Sewell Group.