



## PRESS RELEASE

9 May 2013

### LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE JOINS FORCES WITH LEUKAEMIA CHARITY

Leicestershire Police has announced that it will work with the Rik Basra Leukaemia Campaign to recruit new bone marrow donors to the Anthony Nolan register. They will hold a series of community events across the city and county from 18<sup>th</sup> May.

Blood cancer charity Anthony Nolan uses its register to match bone marrow donors to blood cancer patients in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.

Rik Basra, a Leicestershire Police Inspector who received a lifesaving bone marrow transplant 18 months ago, says, "My colleagues at Leicestershire Police have been incredibly supportive ever since my initial leukaemia diagnosis in 2009. I'm living proof of the fact that joining the bone marrow register can make a lifesaving difference to someone with blood cancer."

Chief Superintendent Chris Haward, who has co-ordinated the events, says, "We are so pleased that Rik's transplant was successful and he has been able to return to work. Whilst Rik's friends and colleagues have supported the Rik Basra campaign over the past eighteen months, as an organisation we wanted to do something further to continue to raise awareness of stem cell donation.

"The donor events being held across the Force area in the coming weeks will hopefully boost the numbers of people recruited to the Anthony Nolan register, helping to save the lives of other people suffering from blood cancers."

Ann O'Leary, Head of Register Development at Anthony Nolan, adds, "Working with Leicestershire Police is a fantastic opportunity as it will allow us to reach even more people in the Leicestershire community. We particularly need young men aged 16-30 to sign up to the register, as they are the most likely to be chosen to donate."

Prospective donors will be asked to fill in a short application form and provide a small saliva sample. Anyone who can't make one of the events can sign up online at [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org).



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### Event details:

- Saturday May 18, 10am-1pm at Oadby Library, 10 The Parade, Oadby, Leicester LE2 5BF
- Sunday May 19, 10am-3pm at the Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara, East Park Road, Leicester LE5 4QB
- Wednesday May 22, 12pm-4pm at Loughborough University LE11 3TU
- Sunday May 26, 10am-2pm at Manor Field Pavillion, Manor Field, Grange Lane, Thurnby, Leicestershire LE7 9PH

**Ends**

For more information, please contact Ellen Marshall on 020 7424 6606 / 07824 362 106 or email

[ellen.marshall@anthonymolan.org](mailto:ellen.marshall@anthonymolan.org)

**Ends**

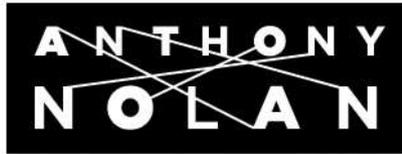
### NOTES TO EDITORS

#### Key messages

- Anthony Nolan uses its register to match potential bone marrow donors to blood cancer patients in desperate need of a bone marrow transplant.
- We need more young men aged 16-30 to sign up, as they account for 80% of bone marrow donations but make up just 11% of the register.
- We urgently need people from Black, Asian and other Ethnic Minority backgrounds to sign up, as they are currently under-represented on the register.

#### Key statistics

- Every 20 minutes someone in the UK is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- There are around 1700 people in the UK in need of a bone marrow, or blood stem cell, transplant. This is usually their last chance of survival.
- 70% of patients will not find a matching donor from within their families; instead they turn to us to find them an unrelated donor.
- We can only find a suitable donor for around half the people who need a lifesaving bone marrow transplant.
- White Northern Europeans have a 90% chance of finding a bone marrow donor. This falls to just 40% for people from Black, Asian, and Ethnic Minority backgrounds.



**BE A MATCH, SAVE A LIFE**

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- We particularly need young men aged 16-30 to join the register, as they are the most likely to be chosen as donors.
- 90% of donations take place via [PBSC](#) (peripheral blood stem cell collection). This is an outpatient appointment and is similar to donating blood.
- To join the register, you must be aged between 16 and 30, weigh more than 8 stone (51kg) and be in general good health. For more information about our work or to sign up online, please visit [www.anthonynolan.org](http://www.anthonynolan.org).