

News release

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For immediate release

Share your views at 2011 AGM

People interested in local health issues are being encouraged to have their say on services and the way the NHS in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is run as part of this year's Annual General Meeting of the new PCT Cluster.

The event - which is open to staff, patients and the public – will take place at The King Power Stadium (formerly the Walkers Stadium) on Tuesday September 20, 2011.

Directors from the PCT Cluster, made up of NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland, will be joined by colleagues from the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS trust, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust and East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS). They will form a panel that will be able to answer questions from attendees on anything to do with the local NHS, from quality issues to performance, finance and plans for the future.

The GP chairs of the new Clinical Commissioning Groups, which will be responsible for planning and buying many of the health services needed by people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, will also be on hand to provide an outline of their immediate plans and to answer any questions.

This year the AGM will be supported by an interactive well-being market. Stalls will include information about nutrition, physical activity, older people's services, cancer screening and long term conditions. There will also be the opportunity to complete a free health MOT, including free diabetes checks and blood pressure monitoring.

The well-being market will start at 4pm and close at 6pm. The formal AGM will start at 6pm and run until 8pm.

Catherine Griffiths, chief executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster, said: "The AGM is a chance for us to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the NHS both nationally and locally as we enter this period of unprecedented change, while also reflecting on our performance over the last year."

Cathy Ellis, chair of the PCT Cluster, added: "I'm delighted that we've been able to assemble a panel that spans all areas of the NHS in our area. It provides people with a unique opportunity to ask all of those burning questions, whatever they may be, and I'd encourage as many people as possible to attend."

People who attend the event are invited to submit any detailed questions in advance so that a full answer can be provided on the evening. To ask a question in advance please

log onto www.leicestercity.nhs.uk/AGM2011 or www.lcr.nhs.uk/AGM2011. Alternatively there will be a forum for questions on the night.

ENDS

For interviews or more information please contact senior media officer Caroline Higgs on 0116 295 7663 or caroline.higgs@lcr.nhs.uk or media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 4123 or liz.thomas@leicestercity.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 around 1.5m. Cluster formation is an interim stage in the reform of the NHS, involving ongoing transfer of most local commissioning functions to GP-led clinical commissioning groups, in line with the Health and Social Care Bill, now before Parliament.