

## News release

Friday August 19, 2011  
For immediate release

### **New Belgrave Health Centre offers more clinics closer to home**

A new £5million health centre has opened its doors in Belgrave providing local people with a state-of-the-art GP surgery and a wide range of other clinical services all under one roof.

The new Belgrave Health Centre is the culmination of years of planning by NHS Leicester City, and sees the fulfilment of a dream by local campaigners and their community. It is envisaged that the new centre will help to improve access to health services for an area of the city which has historically been served by smaller single-handed GP practices.

The centre is also doing its bit for the environment as well as the local community, with it being one of two in the city to have been built using sustainable materials and includes solar panels on the roof to part generate energy for the building.

Dr Avi Prasad, co-chair of the Leicester City Clinical Commissioning Group and a GP in the city, said: "A huge number of local people will benefit from the opening of this centre. The wide range of health services that will be made available means that it is sure to be a real benefit to the local area."

Cathy Ellis, chair of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster, added: "Community leaders have been campaigning for more than six years to establish a new health centre in the Belgrave area of the city. We are grateful for their support throughout the process and we are delighted we have finally made this vision a reality."

The new Belgrave Health Centre on Brandon Street, Leicester, is taking on new patients and offers the services of The Practice, formerly in Cross Street, and Dr Gandecha and Partners, who were based in nearby Buller Road. These practices will predominantly target the Belgrave area, including residents not previously registered with a GP.

The health centre will also provide a base from which community nurses can operate. Over the next few weeks clinical accommodation will be taken up by:

- Children's Occupational Therapy services
- Children's Physiotherapy services
- Midwifery service
- Diabetes clinic
- Retinal screening clinic
- Speech and language service
- Leg ulcer clinic
- Continence clinic
- COPD clinic
- Heart failure clinic, and

- Home oxygen nurse clinic.

Ved Dhiman, chair of the Cross Street Practice Patient Participation Group, said: “The new building will bring great benefits to the local community as it is situated right at the heart of Belgrave. The building has good disabled access, two entrances for ease of access and patients can wait for their appointments in spacious waiting rooms.

“There is good local transport to the health centre and now local nurses will be stationed here it will make it easier for patients to access a range of services. The building has a great modern structure and is set next to an area full of greenery. It’s a real improvement for the area.”

Patients who would like register with a GP are asked to contact the NHS Leicester City customer services team on 0116 295 7011, who will take details and signpost them to the most appropriate surgeries.

ENDS

**Members of the media are invited to attend a tour of the new Belgrave Health Centre on Monday 22 August at 1pm. Please confirm your attendance before the event by calling Liz Thomas on 0116 295 4123 or Caroline Higgs on 0116 295 7663.**

**For interviews or more information please contact media officer Liz Thomas on 0116 295 4123 or [liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk](mailto:liz.thomas@leicestercity.nhs.uk) or senior media officer Caroline Higgs on 0116 295 7663 or email [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 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.