

News release

Tuesday October 4, 2011
For immediate release

Management change at Leicester City Assist Practice

Management of the Leicester City Assist Practice has today passed to a local GP partnership.

Assura Leicestershire LLP, a partnership between 21 local GP practices and leading health provider Assura Medical, was awarded the contract to run the practice which is based on Clyde Street in the centre of Leicester.

NHS Leicester City, which previously ran the practice, invited organisations to apply to take over management of the practice and awarded the contract following an open and robust tendering process.

The local NHS trust's decision to put the practice out to tender follows national guidance and enables the trust to focus on developing, buying and managing the performance of services, leaving the provider to concentrate on delivering the services and clinical practice.

Leicester City Assist Practice caters for patients who are seeking asylum in the UK and offers patients access to high quality GP and nurse services until they are granted leave to remain or refugee status. The opening hours of 8:30am to 5pm remain unchanged.

Dr Ian Cracknell, a local GP and chair of Assura Leicestershire, said: "We are delighted to have this opportunity to provide for the health needs for patients who in many cases will have had varying access to high quality care.

"We are committed to providing patients with high quality access, easy and convenient access to a GP or nurse when they need it. New patients who are eligible for NHS care are invited to register with us."

Prof Aly Rashid, medical director for NHS Leicester City and NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland, said: "Many asylum seekers have been through extremely challenging circumstances as they fled their home countries, all of which impacts on their health and wellbeing, physically and emotionally.

"It is essential that we have a GP service which can understand and deal with their medical needs. It was therefore vital that we awarded this contract to an organisation which showed a full realisation of what was required to work with this diverse and special group of patients."

Leicester City Assist Practice

1a Clyde Street
Leicester
LE1 2BG
Tel: 0116 295 2400

Web: <http://www.leicestercityassistpractice.nhs.uk/>

Opening Times

8:30am-5pm Monday to Friday

ENDS

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www.assuraleicestershirellp.co.uk

Notes to the editor

Assura Leicestershire LLP:

- is a 50:50 joint venture partnership between Assura Medical and 21 GP practices;
- is a long-term, collaborative partnership between Assura Medical and local GPs which was set up to provide community-based services which offer patients an additional choice;
- currently operates an Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) service and a GP practice mentoring scheme; and
- is owned 50% by the GP practices and 50% by Assura Medical and is run by a clinical management board (CMB) which comprises of four GPs, a business director and an Assura Medical regional general manager.
- Assura Medical provides all the necessary support in the way of funding, service and commercial expertise, IT, business processes and additional resources.
- As a partner to the NHS, Assura Medical has a track record of forming partnerships with groups of GPs in order to provide high quality and safe healthcare services in primary and community settings closer to the patient's home.

NHS Leicester City:

- NHS Leicester City is the operating name for Leicester City Primary Care Trust, which now works jointly in a 'cluster' arrangement with NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland. 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 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 and the House of Lords.

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

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