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For immediate release

Last chance to have your say on Loughborough WIC plans

Time is running out for members of the public to have their say as part of the consultation on the walk-in centre and the future of urgent care in Loughborough.

The 12-week consultation ends on 11 January and people must return their questionnaires by that date in order for their views to be included.

West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (WL CCG), which will be responsible for commissioning or 'buying' local healthcare from April 2013, has been carrying out a review of how urgent care services are provided locally and if they can be provided more effectively.

The consultation has looked at two options:

- Option one is urgent care at the current Walk-In Centre at Pinfold Gate
- Option two is urgent care provided at Loughborough Hospital in Epinal Way

Option two is WL CCG's preferred option as the hospital, which is 1.6 miles from Pinfold Gate, provides better access to diagnostic tests including scans, blood tests and week-end X-rays. There are also beds for patients to be kept in for observation and better access to specialist doctors already working in the hospital.

Dr Nick Willmott, a GP and chairman of the group planning the development of urgent care in West Leicestershire, said: "We would like to thank everyone who has filled in and returned their questionnaire so far. Those who would like to have their say before the deadline can still pick up a questionnaire from Loughborough Walk-In Centre, local libraries, GP surgeries and council buildings, or alternatively it can be filled in online by visiting www.lcr.nhs.uk."

ENDS

**For interviews or more information please contact senior media officer
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Notes to editor:

West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group was formed earlier this year as part of the changes proposed to the NHS under the Health and Social Care bill. Clinical Commissioning Groups were formerly known as GP consortia. The West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group represents 50 GP practices and covers

Hinckley & Bosworth, North Charnwood, North West Leicestershire and South Charnwood.