

**For immediate release**

18 January 2012

**Minister officially opens St Luke's Day Case Unit**

Minister of State for Health Simon Burns has officially opened the new Day Case Unit at St Luke's Hospital in Market Harborough.

The minister was taken on a tour of the unit on Wednesday (18 January), which opened to patients earlier this month, before unveiling a plaque in front of councillors, local MP Edward Garnier and representatives from local health services.

The 555m<sup>2</sup> Day Case Unit is of modular build and this type of construction has allowed for reduced wastage and greater flexibility of use. The unit has a sophisticated Building Management System that monitors temperature and ventilation and allows the settings to be checked and adjusted from the facilities management headquarters in Leicester. This is a key component of ensuring infection control standards are achieved.

Endoscopy procedures such as gastroscopy – investigations of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum – and flexible sigmoidoscopy – investigations of the lower part of the bowel – will be carried out at the new centre, which could also carry out a range of other day case surgeries in the future.

Catherine Griffiths, chief executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster, said: "I am delighted that the unit is open and that Mr Burns was able to come to Market Harborough for the official opening.

"The new Day Case Unit means patients are able to receive their endoscopy treatment in a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities and I am sure the people of Market Harborough will be very proud of this."

Mr Burns said: "I'm delighted to be able to open the new Day Case Unit at St Luke's Hospital. It marks a positive step for local people who will benefit from improved endoscopy services and day surgery in modern surroundings."

The opening of the St Luke's Day Case Unit is the first phase in the wider development of St Luke's Hospital. Last month (December) East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group announced it had successfully secured the funding needed to develop hospital services in Market Harborough.

The CCG, which will be responsible for commissioning or 'buying' local healthcare from April 2013, announced in September 2011 that it was committed to plans to

build a new outpatient unit which will house services currently provided at Market Harborough District Hospital.

*Caption: From left, John Hallam, managing director of Hallam Contracts; Cathy Ellis, chair of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster; MP Edward Garnier; Simon Burns MP, Minister of State for Health; Catherine Griffiths, chief executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland PCT Cluster; and Tracey Hamilton, the county service lead for endoscopy who will manage the new unit*

ENDS

**For interviews or more information please contact senior media officer  
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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 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.