

News release

6 July 2011
For immediate release

LLR PCT cluster chair appointed

Cathy Ellis has been appointed as Chair of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS Cluster, it has been announced today (6 July).

The appointment follows Department of Health guidance that all Primary Care Trusts in England should come together to form clusters and share many roles, including both executive and non-executive functions, to reduce costs and maintain capacity and capability while the Government's new clinically-driven vision for the NHS is put in place.

NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland and NHS Leicester City had been among the first in the country to embrace joint working when it was announced last October that it was developing a joint Executive Team and was restructuring its operations to share the majority of functions across both organisations.

Commenting on the appointment Catherine Griffiths, Chief Executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland NHS Cluster, said: "I am delighted that the cluster will benefit from Cathy's leadership as we move on to the next phase of implementing the NHS reforms. Over the course of the next 18 months our cluster focus will be on maintaining grip on quality and finance and delivering our statutory responsibilities, whilst also working with GPs and other clinicians to create the new system envisaged by the Government.

"I want to put on record my thanks to Daxa Patel, the outgoing Chair of NHS Leicester City, who has contributed so much to improving healthcare and reducing inequalities in the city over the last seven years."

Cathy Ellis added: "This is an extremely challenging yet exciting time for the NHS. Whilst the clustering arrangements mean we are able to work in ever more joined up ways, I am absolutely committed to retaining a unique focus on the specific needs and challenges faced within both the city and the two counties. This will help us to ensure that we deliver the highest possible quality of care for all, while also handing over a solid legacy to the clinical commissioners of the future."

After graduating from Birmingham University in 1988, Cathy joined PriceWaterhouse where she qualified as a chartered accountant.

Cathy worked primarily in audit with a wide variety of clients in manufacturing, utilities and financial services. Between 1993 and 2005 Cathy worked for Bass Brewers (now MolsonCoors Brewers) in finance, strategic planning, procurement and human resources (HR) where she was director of HR operations and latterly took a global role liaising with the US and Canada as director of HR organisational effectiveness. Cathy completed an MBA from Lancaster University in 2000.

Cathy joined NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland as a non-executive director in 2006. She has been vice-chair since 2008 and was appointed acting chair in October 2010.

Cathy's remuneration for the role of cluster chair is £42,033 per annum. The appointment will run from 1 August 2011 until March 2013.

This appointment has been made in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments Code of Practice.

All appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. However, in accordance with the Nolan recommendations, any declared political activity is made public. Cathy Ellis has not declared any political activity.

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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:

NHS Leicester City is the operating name for Leicester City Primary Care Trust.

NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland is the operating name for Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (PCT).