

Press Release

22 January 2010

Green Light for Bigger Brighter Better Resource Centre

NHS City and Hackney's proposed South West Primary Care Resource Centre has been given the go-ahead for development on the current St Leonard's Hospital site.

London Borough of Hackney's Planning Committee approved the plans at last night's meeting, following a period of extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

NHS City and Hackney CEO Jacqui Harvey said "This planning permission signals the start of a new period in healthcare provision in Hackney. It comes on the back of an extensive consultation process, and takes us one step further towards our goal of delivering a wide range of health services closer to where people live."

The South West Primary Care Resource Centre will be a one-stop place where local people can access a range of services including:

- GPs with extended opening hours
- Diagnostic tests including ultrasound and audiology
- Antenatal clinics with community midwives
- Community Dentistry
- Urgent Care Centre providing a walk-in service
- Community health services like physiotherapy, foot health and family planning
- Psychology (Talking Therapies)
- Clinics traditionally provided in outpatient departments
- Community Sexual Health Services (currently provided from the Ivy Centre) which offers a wide range of services including family planning, cervical smears, emergency contraception and advice on sexual health.
- Physiotherapy services (including the back pain service)
- Adult Community Rehabilitation Team
- Wheelchair service

Other services could be housed at the Primary Care Resource Centre to serve the whole of the borough including; information and advice services (e.g. benefits advice), information and assessment for social care and multi-function rooms for use by community groups.

The red brick St Leonard's Hospital building (seen from Kingsland Road and Nuttall Street) is currently the headquarters for NHS City and Hackney, and is part of a conservation area.

“We are committed to preserving historically important buildings, so the front or facade of the building on Kingsland Road will be preserved,” she said.

Construction of the South West Primary Care Resource Centre is scheduled to start in July 2010, with official opening set for Summer 2012.

For more information please visit; www.cityandhackney.nhs.uk

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Notes to Editors

In 2006, NHS City and Hackney conducted the ‘Bigger, Brighter, Better consultation’ which proposed that GP surgeries operate from fewer, more modern buildings. It also proposed that four Primary Care Resource Centres be built across Hackney to deliver a wider range of services at a more local level. The South West Primary Care Resource Centre is one of these.

St Leonard’s Hospital currently houses many of the services to be located in the South West Primary Care Resource Centre. These services will be decanted to various locations while construction is taking place, before returning to the Primary Care Resource Centre. Full details will be communicated to the public, via each health service and a full programme of stakeholder communication.