

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 26th March, 2009

GP led health centre contract is signed



Clockwise from front left: Elgar Healthcare directors Dr Adam Thompson and Dr Charlie Harris with Richard Stringfellow, the PCT's Head of Corporate Development, and Brian Hanford, the PCT's Director of Finance.

Health chiefs at Worcestershire Primary Care Trust and the directors of the company appointed to run the county's new GP-led Health Centre have sealed the deal this week by signing the official contract.

The PCT announced in December that Elgar Healthcare – a consortium of local GPs – had been named as the preferred bidder to run the new centre due to open in August 2009.

When the centre, which will be located in Farrier Street, Worcester, opens, it will mean that anyone can access GP appointments without having to be registered, bringing health and wellbeing to people with busy, active lives who can't necessarily always find time to attend their own GP practice.

The GP-led Health Centre will be open from 8 am till 8 pm all 365 days of the year, providing all usual General Practice services for all members of the community with an emphasis on improving access to those sections of the population who tend to access services poorly.

Helping people stay well and healthy is a key priority for all working in the new Health Centre and some of these services will also be provided in other parts of the City.

Brian Hanford, Director of Finance at Worcestershire PCT, said: "This exciting development is part of our overall strategy dedicated to the improvement of access to primary care services. We are delighted to be in partnership with Elgar Healthcare and look forward to working with them in the delivery of primary care services, which will include the opportunity to see a GP without a prior appointment."

Dr Adam Thompson, Director of Elgar Healthcare Limited, said: "Having completed contract signature, we are looking forward to working with the PCT to deliver an innovative way of delivering General Practice.

"Our company has been formed by local doctors, and we anticipate that our local knowledge and expertise will assist us in delivering a high quality service, which can focus on the health needs of our local community.

"The service aims to provide appointments for people for busy lives who may not normally get to see their own GP with routine problems, rather than supplement the Primary Care Out of Hours Service, and is therefore designed to be complimentary to existing General Practice Surgeries in the county which already have high standards of care delivery.

"The centre will also focus on attracting groups in the community to whom healthcare has not always reached out to for a variety of reasons. We also aim to bring additional health education and screening to the community as the service develops."

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For further information contact

- Rebecca Bourne, Communications Manager, on 01905 760020 or 07775 816420 or email rebecca.bourne@worcspct.nhs.uk
- Tom Grove, Communications Officer, on 01905 733734 or 07501 484255 or email tom.grove@worcspct.nhs.uk