

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday, December 23, 2008**

### **Worcestershire PCT appoints Elgar Healthcare to run new GP-led Health Centre**

Worcestershire PCT is pleased to announce the preferred bidder who has today been appointed to manage and run a GP-Led Health Centre in Worcester.

The PCT had interest from a number of potential providers and Elgar Healthcare has been selected following a rigorous selection process

The PCT is now working with Elgar Healthcare Limited -a company founded by local GPs - to develop new ways of providing healthcare services in Worcestershire.

The GP-led Health Centre will be situated in Farrier Street, Worcester and is due to open by July 2009.

When it opens, it will mean that anyone can use the health centre without having to be registered and will focus on bringing health and wellbeing to people with busy, active lives who can't necessarily always find time to attend their own GPpractice.

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 delivered\provided in other parts of the City.

Paul Bates, Chief Executive of Worcestershire PCT said: "This is a very exciting development which is part of our overall strategy to improve the public's access to primary care services. Our other major initiative is to encourage GP practices to provide extended hours and many local practices are now submitting proposals to do so.

"We will be working very closely with Elgar Healthcare to make sure that our first GP-led Health Centre is a major success and responds properly to the public's wishes for more convenient services, including the ability to drop in without an appointment."

Dr Adam Thompson, Director of Elgar Healthcare Limited said: " My co-director, Dr Charlie Harris, and I are delighted that the PCT has given us the opportunity to work with them to deliver this new service for Worcestershire.

“Our company is founded from South Worcestershire GPs all keen to build upon the high quality General Practice already delivered in Worcestershire, who see this as an exciting new way to complement existing services.

“We aim to work closely with the PCT to utilise this centre to help improve the health outcomes of those in our community who access health services poorly, to assist in delivering healthcare to an expanding University population, while at the same time improving access for all of our population to General Practice services”.

## **Ends**

For further information contact Rebecca Bourne, Communications Manager, on 01905 760020 or (07775) 816420