

News Release

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Shotfield Health Centre given the go-ahead

Redevelopment plans for a new state-of-the-art health centre at Shotfield have been given the go-ahead. The new £10 million health centre will be built on the same site as the existing GP clinic and will improve community-based health services for local people. It is scheduled to open its doors to patients in Winter 2010.

The new state-of-the-art health centre, which is three times the size of the existing GP clinic, is being developed as part of *Better Healthcare Closer to Home*, the local NHS programme for providing more healthcare in the community in Sutton and Merton. It will provide more space to deliver high quality healthcare services for a wider population, including:

- Two GP practices
- An expanded community dental service that will be improved to meet local needs and will be able to see more people
- New surgeries for podiatry (chiroprody) services
- New theatre rooms for minor procedures
- Community pharmacy
- Training rooms to teach doctors learning to be GPs.
- Space for additional services currently provided in hospital, such as outpatient clinics and diagnostic procedures.

Dr Heather Lings, a GP at Shotfield Health Centre, Wallington added:

“The redeveloped Shotfield Health Centre is needed to meet the health needs of our patients and the population of Wallington. The new centre will have additional space for the doctors and nurses and give us the facilities to provide a wider range of services.

“The building will have state-of-the-art facilities including a theatre suite allowing more procedures to be done locally. It will vastly improve the environment for staff and patients alike, and in particular give better access for patients with disabilities. It also paves the way for a local care centre to be co-located to provide diagnostic and hospital outpatient facilities. Altogether it will be a huge boost for local healthcare in Wallington.”

Stephen Waring, Programme Director, *Better Healthcare Closer to Home*, commented:

“We worked closely with local people in developing the plans for the new health centre at Shotfield, and would like to thank local people for their support.

“At present, local residents in Sutton and Merton have to go to hospital for a number of services which could be provided in the community, such as minor operations. As well as expanding the range of services provided by local GPs, we are currently developing plans for Local Care Centres in Sutton and Merton, which will enable local people to receive most of their healthcare outside of hospital closer to home. This will make it easier for people to get the healthcare they need..”

The new Shotfield Health Centre is being developed as the first phase of the Local Care Centre in Wallington, with plans to expand services in the future. Wallington is one of a series of four Local Care Centres that the Better Healthcare Closer to Home programme is proposing to develop. The others are planned to be at the Wilson Hospital, St Helier Hospital and at the Nelson Hospital, providing GP services, out-of-hours services, diagnostics such as x-ray, ultrasound and blood testing facilities, facilities to perform minor operations, other health related services (e.g. dentists, opticians, pharmacy), social services and voluntary services.

While construction is underway, it is intended that services will be decanted to the adjacent office block across Jubilee Gardens, causing minimal disruption to patients. Work will also be carried out to rejuvenate Jubilee Gardens as part of the project.

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More information on Better Healthcare Closer to Home can be found at www.betterhealthcare.org.uk.