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News release

FAO: News editors / health reporters

NEW WORLD-CLASS HEALTH CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS

Barnsley's new world-class GP-led health centre, run by Primecare, is set to benefit thousands of local people who work and live in the town when it opens its doors on Monday 20 July.

The new health centre – the first of its kind for the town – is based in the Gateway Plaza development near Westgate in the town centre, where it will bring the biggest benefits to the most people.

Open from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, every day of the year, the health centre will offer both walk-in services and bookable appointments with doctors and nurses.

As well as the full range of GP services, the centre will offer a minor injuries and illness service as an alternative to going to accident and emergency at the hospital.

NHS Barnsley's chief executive, Ailsa Claire, said: "This is just the first step in ensuring that every person in Barnsley receives a consistently high standard of care at a time and place to suit them.

"We want our health services to live up to the world class standards that people in Barnsley deserve and to truly be a health service which supports people to live well, live longer and take care of their own health."

The GP-led health centre expects to see around 6,000 walk-in patients a year. But there are also 2,000 places for patients to register with the centre's GP practice – ideal for those working in the town centre.

The health centre is one of four new primary care services across the Borough – adding to the new Priory Campus GP practice which opened in April this year.

And two further new GP practices are set to follow in Grimethorpe and Goldthorpe in August and September respectively.

Following consultation with local people last year, these new services have been directly shaped by the views of people across the borough and come as part of NHS Barnsley's wider plan to ensure everyone in Barnsley has more choice and access to the very best health services.

Local people will benefit from the new ways of working set out by NHS Barnsley as well as improved access, longer opening hours, new services in the community and more doctors when the new services are up and running.

The new GP-led health centre will create 20 new jobs – both clinical and administrative – for Barnsley.

Barnsley Civic Healthcare – a partnership between Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and leading primary care services provider, Primecare – will run the new centre.

Dr Ashton, who is the lead GP for the health centre, said: "I am delighted to be working at the new health centre in Barnsley that will make it easy for people to see a doctor or nurse. We offer NHS health care when you need it, from 8am – 8pm, seven days a week. Patients can register with us or use our services at their convenience, and keep registered with their usual GP practice. Our friendly team looks forward to welcoming you to our high quality services."

ENDS

Notes to editors

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