PRESS RELEASE — 22nd September 2009

HEREFORD HOSPITALS NHS TRUST & MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

CANCER SERVICES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Patients in Herefordshire are expected to benefit from changes in both chemotherapy and radiotherapy services over the next three years.

The Charles Renton Unit (CRU) at the County Hospital in Hereford currently provides chemotherapy services. A new purpose built facility – the Macmillan Renton Unit – is due to come on stream at the end of 2010. The total cost of the building will be in excess of £4.6m. £2.65m will be funded through public fundraising organised by Macmillan Cancer Support. The balance will be funded by Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust who will also fund all enabling works. Delivery of the Macmillan Renton Unit will require the replacement of Kenwater Ward. This is expected to have been completed by March 2010. A turf cutting ceremony, to mark the start of the building work has been scheduled for the end of October this year.

Patients requiring radiotherapy currently travel to the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre which is part of Cheltenham General Hospital. Further to the decision of the Three Counties Cancer Network Board in July 2008 supporting the development of a satellite radiotherapy unit on the County Hospital site, teams from Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (which runs Cheltenham General) and from Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust (which runs the County Hospital) have been working on its design. The satellite unit will be built as an extension to the Macmillan Renton Unit, there will be a common entrance, and a similar design will be used throughout to give a consistent feel. Gloucestershire Hospitals will take lead responsibility for designing, building and operating the satellite unit. They will be supported by Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust whose planning team will concentrate on integrating the two building phases. The intention is that the satellite unit will be funded by Gloucestershire Hospitals. Current plans are for the satellite radiotherapy unit to be operational in December 2012.
Patients and members of the public wanting to donate to the Macmillan Renton Unit appeal can continue to do so. Alternatively they may wish to make a donation to the Hereford Hospitals General Oncology Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is a general fund which can be put to any use stipulated by the donor or accessed by the staff providing cancer services for the benefit of their patients.

Donations to Macmillan can be made online at [http://www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk) or to the Oncology Trust Fund [http://www.justgiving.com/herefordhospitals](http://www.justgiving.com/herefordhospitals) or by cheque and postal order payable to ‘Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Fund’ and post to:

Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Fund  
The County Hospital  
Union Walk  
HEREFORD  
HR1 1ER

Notes to editor:

- Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust is the main provider of acute services across Herefordshire and parts of Wales.
- The Trust has an annual turnover of c.£106 million and employs over 1,600 staff.
- It has established itself as a leading centre for acute care in the area, providing a wide range of services including Accident and Emergency, Cancer Care, Day case and routine surgery, Emergency in-patient medical care, Maternity services, Outpatient Clinics, and Paediatrics.
- The Trust has ambitious plans to achieve Foundation Trust status to provide stronger accountability to local people through members and elected governors. For more information, visit [www.herefordhospital.nhs.uk](http://www.herefordhospital.nhs.uk)

Notes to editor re the Macmillan Renton Appeal:

- Macmillan Cancer Support is contributing £2.65 million to the construction of the Macmillan Renton Unit.
• Of this sum, £2.217 million has to date been raised by the successful Macmillan Renton Appeal, with Macmillan having guaranteed the balance so that building work could be progressed with certainty.

For further information please contact:
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