Press Release – 25 May 2011

Hospital receives key to new multi-million pound local cancer unit

On Tuesday 24th May, Wye Valley NHS Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support celebrated the receipt of the keys from the contractor SpellerMetcalfe for the multi-million pound local cancer unit.

A short ceremony was held to mark the occasion which means that the building can now be furnished and equipped by the Trust.

In the coming weeks hospital staff will be finalising arrangements to move into the new cancer unit and preparing the building ready to receive its first patients during the week of 4th July 2011.

The new building named the ‘Macmillan Renton Unit’ will provide the patients of Herefordshire, Powys and border areas, with a bespoke cancer treatment facility closer to home.

Mark Curtis, Chairman of Wye Valley NHS Trust, said “This is a momentous day for everyone who has contributed to and fundraised for the Macmillan Renton Unit. We are very grateful to Macmillan for all their support. The project provides a template for future projects jointly delivered by the Trust and the communities it serves”.

Elizabeth Wright, Macmillan Development Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support said, ‘We are delighted that the Macmillan Renton Unit has been handed over to Wye Valley NHS Trust, and will be receiving its first patients very shortly. This has been a major project for Macmillan Cancer Support locally and we are very pleased that it means that people with cancer in Herefordshire and Powys will be receiving their chemotherapy treatment in the best possible environment, which we know makes such a difference to their overall experience. I would like to thank everyone who has made this possible, particularly the people of Herefordshire, without whose generosity we would not have reached this memorable day.’

This project has overcome many challenges none greater than the initial decision to enter into the fundraising initiative. The people of Herefordshire and surrounding areas responded in a phenomenal manner raising the required funds in double quick time.

Together Macmillan Cancer Support and Wye Valley NHS Trust developed a design to meet all the local needs, in conjunction with the local cancer user group. The whole intention of this was to provide a hugely improved patient environment for everyone who visits the Macmillan Renton Unit.

Patients and visitors to the new unit will experience first class spacious facilities including, a new cancer support and health information shop, a quiet room, refreshments area, and a tranquil landscaped garden with seating available to everyone.

Information about the Macmillan Renton Unit build is available on Wye Valley NHS Trust website (under Acute Services) – www.wyevally.nhs.uk

Photograph
left to right, SpellerMetcalfe contractors, Graham Vaughan, Tony Shaw, Mark Curtis, Helen Byard, Mike Coupe, Martin Woodford, Elizabeth Wright, Ingrid Goodman.
Notes to editor:

**Improving health for local people with cancer**

The new Macmillan Renton Unit (MRU) is a partnership between Wye Valley NHS Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support (MCS) to provide a new purpose built unit at The County Hospital, Hereford.

Every year around 230,000 people in England will be diagnosed with cancer and around 125,000 will die from the disease, making it the leading cause of mortality in people under the age of 75.

The County Hospital is part of Wye Valley NHS Trust, the first integrated provider of acute, community and social care in England. Its catchment population of 230,000 includes patients and service users from Herefordshire and Powys.

**Modernising the care environment**

The MRU replaces The County Hospital's existing chemotherapy facility. It will also allow the transfer of outpatient clinics from the main hospital. In both instances the wish has been to promote long term cancer care in a modern environment, better able to meet the needs of patients recovering from cancer.

**Designed by service users, built by a local supplier**

The entire project has been developed with the support and involvement of a service user group, which included key staff and a public art working group which has played an integral part of the building and garden design.

Visitors to the building will enter a light and open reception with a waiting lounge which looks on to the landscape garden area. The ground floor waiting area has a cancer support and health information shop and resource facilities including a quiet room. In addition, beverage facilities and toilets are located in the main reception.

The site has good access options by foot or road, including a dedicated drop off area, and good parking facilities including disabled spaces. The building contract is managed by local construction company Speller Metcalfe.

**First class facilities, tranquil and spacious**

The chemotherapy treatment facilities are located adjacent to the waiting lounge providing smooth patient flow into the treatment area. This consists of an open plan lounge of twelve recliner chairs,
one bed bay, a consulting room and a procedures room together with relatives quiet space and support areas.

All patient and relatives areas look out onto the tranquil garden which is designed to enhance the patient environment and offers a tranquil space. The outpatient area is also easily accessed from the waiting lounge and contains, consultation exam rooms, a phlebotomy room and rooms with domestic décor and lighting for prosthetics and counselling.

The staff and general support areas are on the first floor which include offices, file storage, photocopying and staff change/rest rooms.

The site has been selected to enable cancer services to be provided in a dedicated location on the hospital which benefits from adjoining a boundary of a quiet and established residential area with an independent entrance.

The location and orientation of the site has enabled the design to allow for future expansion to accommodate radiotherapy in an integrated manner. An agreement to add radiotherapy has recently been established with aim of that being constructed in 2012/2013.

2011 - a Special Year for Wye Valley and Macmillan
This is the Centenary year for Macmillan Cancer Support and Hereford’s new unit will be the only building to be completed and formally opened in 2011.

It will bring the completion of the largest project that the Trust (formerly Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust) has commissioned for many years and demonstrates the success of partnering with a charitable organisation. An achievement to be recognised and celebrated by everyone involved.

2011, is also the birthday of Wye Valley NHS Trust which has become the first integrated provider of acute, community and social care in England; Herefordshire’s health and adult social care providers have joined to form Wye Valley NHS Trust.

Integrated care provides an opportunity for staff to work across traditional boundaries, working more closely with a range of community partners in order to deliver a quality of care that we would all want for ourselves, families and friends.

A milestone project
Macmillan has committed nearly £2.7 million into this project which includes over £1.7 million being raised through local fundraising, coordinated by the charity with the balance and provision of suitable site being provided by the Trust.

The resulting commitments for construction and equipment are:
Macmillan National Funds £ 914,000.00
Local Fundraising £1,744,000.00
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust £ 959,000.00
Net total £3,617,000.00

Gross total £4,800,000.00 (Including enabling works and infrastructure by HHT).

Local fund raising exceeded the original target and was achieved in many different ways including formal fundraising events, corporate support and literally hundreds of individual activities throughout the community.

Key dates:
Construction commenced April 2010
Building due to be occupied week beginning 4th July 2011.

Wye Valley NHS Trust:
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust, NHS Herefordshire and Primary Care Trust Provider Services and Adult Social Care previously provided by Herefordshire Council have joined to become a new organisation, Wye Valley NHS Trust which brings together acute, community health and adult social care.

The key principles of the organisation are to provide high quality and safe care to promote better health, well being and independence, and inspire people within our community.

With an estimated annual turnover of around £160million, we employ around 2,500 staff. As the first integrated provider of acute, community and social care in England, we aim to build new relationships between our staff, patients, service users and their carers, and with the wider community.

We are a clinical and practitioner-led organisation owned by our local community and staff.

We are also working towards Foundation Trust status with the aim of achieving it in 2013.

For further information please contact:
Nicola Licence, Company Secretary, Wye Valley NHS Trust: 01432 355444 ext. 5210
or Fiona Gurney, Communications Assistant 01432 355444 ext. 5105

Macmillan Cancer Support:

Macmillan Cancer Support is contributing £2.65 million to the new Macmillan Renton Unit. Of this amount £1.7 million has been raised through the very successful Macmillan Renton Appeal.

Macmillan aims to reach and improve the lives of everyone living with cancer with emotional, medical, practical and financial support. If you are affected by cancer and would like to talk to someone, please call 0808 808 00 00.

For further information please contact:
Claire Monks, Communications Manager, Macmillan Cancer Support: call 07834 192211 or email CMonks@macmillan.org.uk