Press release – Thursday 29 September 2011
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Lady Darnley to officially open multi-million pound local cancer unit

The Macmillan Renton Unit, Herefordshire’s new multi-million pound cancer facility, will be officially opened by The Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire, Lady Darnley, on Saturday 15 October 2011.

The unit, a partnership between Wye Valley NHS Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support, welcomed its first patients in July, and will now open its doors to the public to say a big ‘thank you’ to those involved in the project and the people of Herefordshire who responded in a phenomenal manner to raise funds in double quick time.

The ceremony signifies the successful completion of the largest project the Trust has commissioned for many years, and the only building to be completed and formally opened by Macmillan in their centenary year.

Mark Curtis, Chairman of Wye Valley NHS Trust, said “We are very proud to have the support of Lady Darnley, to perform the opening ceremony of this prestigious new facility for the people of Herefordshire”.

“It will be a momentous day and the Trust and Macmillan wish to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have contributed and fundraised for the new unit. It is an achievement to be recognised and celebrated by everyone involved”.

The official opening ceremony will be followed by refreshments in the Macmillan Renton Unit, with an opportunity to tour the first class, tranquil and spacious facilities.

There are a limited number of places available for members of the public to attend the opening ceremony, available on a first come first served basis. If you would like to attend please contact Fiona Gurney by Tuesday 11 October 2011 to fiona.gurney@hhtr.nhs.uk or phone 01432 355444 ext 5105.

END

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 is the only building to be completed and formally opened in 2011.

It brings 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 was occupied week beginning 4th July 2011.

Notes to editor:

- Wye Valley NHS Trust is the first integrated provider of acute, community and adult social care in England.
- 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:
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