

October 29th 2007

Centre brings health services all under one roof



The New Beverley Healthcare centre has opened its doors to patients.

Beverley Health Centre in Manor Road has been eagerly awaited by patients and healthcare staff in the town and surrounding area. The centre, on the site of the old Beverley Health Centre, will combine the practice of Dr Peter Jones and partners with a range of services provided by East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Dr Jones, who was based at the old centre for 30 years, said: "Patients will really notice the difference.

"The centre is bigger and better and will enable us to provide more services."

The seven GPs based at the practice have been operating in cramped conditions over the past 12 months during construction. The old centre was reduced to two thirds its original size to create space for the new one. "It has been difficult," said Dr Jones. "But patients and staff have been supportive and co-operative while the work has taken place. There is a real need for a facility like this in Beverley.

"A combination of an expanding population and a shift in healthcare towards the primary sector has created a demand for better health facilities.

"Now we have a centre fit for the 21st century."

In addition to the surgery, the PCT will provide a range of services including district nurses, health visitors, dieticians and sexual health advice. Nick Borrill, modern matron for Beverley and Leven, said: "Over the past year, people have been watching the development with great interest and have been asking when it will open.

"The new building is superb and much more welcoming for patients, with improved facilities all under one roof."

Staff today said they were looking forward to starting work in the new centre.

District nurse Liz Hallet said: **"All the staff are delighted to be working in such a pleasant, modern, spacious environment."**

"One of the main benefits of the centre is we are now based in the same building as other healthcare professionals we deal with daily, which helps us deliver an improved quality of healthcare to our patients."

The health centre has been developed as a private-public partnership with medical construction specialists Ashley House. Work is now due to start on the final phase of the scheme, which involves the demolition of the old centre and construction of the car park. It is due to be completed early next year. Meanwhile, there will be no parking facilities available other than three disabled bays.