

9th October 2009

NHS Walsall and Wolverhampton & Walsall LIFTCo have reached financial close on the £5.5m Goscote Palliative Care LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) scheme.



This scheme is a key part of the NHS Walsall strategic plan for the development of community-based Palliative Care services for Walsall.

The scheme will see the construction of a new two storey building of 2,500 m² providing a range of new inpatient and outpatient Adult Palliative Care services under a 25 year concession to build and manage the new facility. Construction will commence on 2 November 2009, and will be carried out by Ashley House plc, a leading provider of primary care infrastructure. Building maintenance and lifecycle services will be delivered by G4S.

The scheme, which will be delivered through a Public Private Partnership established under the LIFT initiative, will provide the community of Walsall with 12 in-patient Hospice beds, a day hospice and outpatient rehabilitation services and a range of specialist Palliative Care support services, including complementary therapies.

Denise McLellan, Chief Executive for NHS Walsall, said "I am delighted that we will be able to start construction of a superb new facility that will give the people of Walsall a new first class Palliative Care service within the Borough".

David Jones, Chief Executive of Wolverhampton & Walsall LIFTCo, said "We're delighted that we can now start construction on this fantastic project that will benefit the people of Walsall. There has been a huge team effort behind the scenes to deliver this project and we look forward to the new facility being open."

Jonathan Holmes, Chief Executive of Ashley House plc, added: "We are delighted to be supporting Walsall PCT and the LIFTCo in the delivery of this important building which will bring improved services to the people of Walsall"

Bob Taylor, Managing Director, Healthcare and Education for G4S Integrated Services, said: "G4S is delighted to be working with LIFTCo and the PCT on this significant project, enhancing end of life care in Walsall"

This will be a new centre of excellence constructed on the site of the former Goscote Hospital. The existing Hospital buildings have been demolished as part of an enabling project completed in March 2009.

The centre will incorporate the following key services:

- Inpatient Palliative Care services (12 beds);
- Outpatient Therapies - including:
 - Blood Transfusions
 - Palliative Chemotherapy
 - Day Hospice services
- Specialist Nursing across a range of disciplines;
- Lymphoedema services (specialist management of swollen limbs, commonly associated with cancer treatment);
- Complimentary therapy services;
- Allied Health and Social Care workers;
- Bereavement, counselling and psychology services;
- Information Services;
- Training and development; and
- Voluntary services.

NHS Walsall's new Palliative Care Strategy aims to significantly improve the quality of palliative and respite care services for the patients of Walsall, by:

- Improving the quality and amount of Palliative and Terminal Care provided in the community, in order to enable more people to die at home if desired;
- Creating a specialist Palliative Care Centre, based on the concept of a "hospice with a difference";
- Ensuring that appropriate arrangements are in place for respite care;
- Ensuring that hospital, primary and community care is well co-ordinated with effective discharge procedures.

It aims to do this by:

- Providing facilities and capacity to develop a community approach, enabling a shift of palliative care services from secondary to primary care;
- Providing specialist palliative care beds;
- Integrating Palliative Care services to a greater extent with existing services such as out of hours medical and nursing services;
- Improving end of life services both in hospital and community settings;
- Further developing multidisciplinary approaches to palliative care, including health and social care needs; and
- Supporting the implementation of the Gold Standards Framework (GSF) as an enhanced service within the General Medical Services 2 contract.