

News Release- 9 July 2010

Topping Out Ceremony for Goscote Palliative Care Centre, Walsall



NHS Walsall's £5.4 million Palliative Care Centre has reached a significant landmark in its development with the completion of the main structure and roof of the building. An official 'topping out' ceremony took place on Monday 5 July at 12.30pm to celebrate this key milestone.

Dr Geoff Archenhold, Chairman for NHS Walsall, opened the event which was attended by Healthcare Improvement Partnership Ltd and Ashley House plc who have been involved in the building project, as well as key dignitaries from other Walsall organisations.

Dr Archenhold, said: "I am delighted to see the progress that has been made towards the construction of the Palliative Care Centre. This new facility will be a major improvement in the care and support patients and their families receive. This new development will be a centre of excellence that the residents of Walsall can be proud of."

Construction of the Palliative Care Centre began in October 2009 as part of the implementation of a new integrated End of Life Care Strategy for the residents of Walsall. The new in-patient hospice, due for completion in November 2010, will be the first dedicated hospice facility for adults within Walsall. The unit will accommodate the following:

- Inpatient Palliative Care services (12 beds)
- Outpatient Therapies including Blood Transfusions, Palliative Chemotherapy and Day Hospice services
- Specialist Nursing across a range of disciplines
- Lymphoedema Services e.g for swollen limbs and side effects of cancer treatment
- Complementary Therapy services
- Allied Health and Social Care workers
- Bereavement, Counselling and Psychology services
- Information services
- Training and Development and
- Voluntary services

As part of a successful £100k Arts Council bid, the Goscote development will include a range of newly commissioned artwork, to include:-

- A 3D centre piece within the internal courtyard of the building
- A stained glass window to the Spiritual Space
- A sculpture and land art trail in the grounds of the building including a folly, gazebo and garden
- A variety of 2D artwork and photographs for display within the building



Shown laying the ceremonial foundation stone from left to right; Julian Rainsford, Director of Estates and Facilities, NHS Walsall, David Hartshorne, Chief Operating Officer, Ashley House plc, Dr Geoff Archenhold, Chairman for NHS Walsall and Carol Southall, NHS Walsall Patient