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Health Minister Ann Keen Opens Molineux Street NHS Centre



Newcastle-upon-Tyne Health Centre celebrates its official opening

Ashley House plc is delighted to report on the successful official opening of The £8m Molineux Street NHS Centre, in Byker. The Polyclinic styled centre is set to revolutionise the way health care is provided in the area by offering a vast range of services and treatment all under one roof. Patients visiting the centre will see facilities including two GP practices, a podiatry service, dressing clinics, community dental services, an operating suite for minor surgery, x-ray machines, physiotherapy, retinal screening and diabetes services.

The centre was officially opened by health minister Ann Keen, along with Newcastle East and Wallsend MP Nick Brown and chair of Newcastle Primary Care Trust Gina Tiller, along with Jonathan Holmes, Chief Executive of Ashley House.

Ann Keen said: "I believe all the local population are really happy with everything at Molineux Street. It's so much better for the patients. It's an investment for the people of this area and its healthcare being delivered in the most user-friendly way. It's also the first time in the history of the health service that we've asked patients and clinicians how they want their services to be delivered and this is one of the things they came up with."

The centre is also next to a pharmacy and optician, and home to a primary care response team, which provides round the clock access to service to help people stay at home rather than go into hospital – and support people with end of life care. A new walk-in centre is due to open on the second floor, where people will be able to get care for minor illnesses and injuries between 8am and 10pm without booking an appointment.

Newcastle PCT chair Gina Tiller was the first patient to undergo surgery at the new centre when doctors operated on a ganglion on her left ankle. With the help of a couple of walking sticks, Gina is now back on her feet and praised the centre for its efficiency.

She said: "I was the first person to be operated on because I was telling everyone how great this place was and I wanted to put my money where my mouth was. This is great for local people and we've been planning it for four years, but it took less than two years to build. I think it was really good for local people to see something going up so fast. The staff are really pleased too because they can work in first class facilities and some had been working in surrounding which were less than ideal. When it's up and running we're hoping it will be very popular. Health centres like Molineux Street provide access to services in the heart of their community."