A MAJOR new fully integrated GP surgery and family centre complex will soon be taking shape in Swansea.

The start of construction works for the state-of-the-art scheme on land off Mayhill Road was marked with a turf-cutting ceremony on Wednesday December 7.

Scheduled to be up and running in early 2018, the new complex will be the first of its kind in Wales, accommodating a family centre, a GP surgery and a pharmacy in the same building.

The project is being delivered by Swansea Council in partnership with Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, who will provide funding for the running of the GP surgery part of the scheme.

The Welsh Government is contributing £567k to the family centre element of the project.

Health and social care specialists Ashley House will develop the new complex, which will replace the family centre on Mayhill Road and the Mayhill GP surgery on Pen-y-Graig Road.

Ashley House is among the founding members of the Social Stock Exchange, which provides access to the world’s first regulated exchange dedicated to businesses and investors seeking to achieve a positive social and environmental impact through their activities.
R & M Williams, a building group based in Swansea and Cardiff, have been appointed as contractors for the new scheme.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Swansea Council Leader, said: “Lack of space for expansion, lack of disabled access and the need for costly repair works are among the problems posed by the current GP surgery and family centre buildings, but this new complex will tackle all these problems, as well as provide access to a co-ordinated, integrated and seamless service for families in a modern environment.

“Alongside our partners, we’ve worked hard to progress this project because the community of Mayhill deserves access to 21st century health and well-being facilities on its doorstep.

“This is a truly innovative project, bringing services together under one roof for the benefit of thousands of local people in one of Swansea’s most disadvantaged areas.

“The new integrated centre will play an important role in contributing to the priorities we all share for Swansea, including tackling poverty, giving every child a good start in life, ageing well and tackling long-term issues through a focus on prevention.”

Services planned for the family centre part of the new complex include childcare for local families, cookery classes, a sensory facility, baby yoga and massage, food bank access and both handyman and outreach services. The Citizens Advice Bureau and Women’s Aid will also be running services based from the centre.

Carl Sargeant, the Welsh Government’s Communities and Children Secretary, said: “The development of the new Mayhill Family Centre is a very exciting prospect for the community of Mayhill. The centre’s main function will be to give every child the best possible start in life by providing them and their families with several services all in one place and by allowing those services to work together more efficiently to support them. It will also benefit the wider community by providing them with a new, purpose built GP surgery fit for the 21st century. I am delighted the Welsh Government is supporting such a forward thinking, integrated development.”

Andrew Davies, ABM University Health Board chairman, said: “These new state-of-the-art facilities in Mayhill will provide a much-needed 21st century health and well-being centre for the local community. It is the result of the increasingly close working relationship between ABMU health board and Swansea Council and an excellent example of the excellent partnership delivering better services for Mayhill.”

Jonathan Holmes, Commercial Director at Ashley House plc, said: “Integrated service provision is really important for local people but notoriously difficult to achieve. This is why Ashley House is thrilled to be working with the Health Board and Swansea Council in Mayhill, so we look forward to the opening of the building.”
About Ashley House plc

Ashley House is a leading Extra Care Housing and Health Property Partner working with providers and commissioners in the public, private and community sectors. The Company has 25 years of experience in providing innovative approaches in the resourcing, funding, design and development of flexible and efficient social and community health, care and supported living environments.

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