

*The New Psychology*



**West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and  
East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust**

**Briefing Information for  
Delivering Quality Healthcare in Herts (DQHH) Leads**

**Equitable Access to Primary Medical Services and the procurement of two new health centres in Hertfordshire**

As a result of the outcome of the interim report of the NHS Next Stage Review (NSR), in which the NHS in England gave a commitment to establish at least an additional 150 GP-led health centres. These centres will provide access to GP services (including walk-in and pre-bookable appointments) from 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. The new health centres will be co-located and integrated as far as possible with other community based services including social care.

Key features of the NSR include the following:

- The new equitable access funding is for new capacity and not for the expansion or replacement of existing surgeries or health centres
- Investment must be made in additional clinical capacity i.e. extra GPs/nurse and support staff
- Services procured must be new and innovative though not necessarily for new buildings or facilities
- Every health centre will have at its core the provision of GP services. Anyone, regardless of where they are registered, will be able to use these services and get bookable appointments or walk in services 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week including bank holidays.
- PCTs will commission these new GP services following an open and transparent tendering process, using Alternative Provider Medical Services (APMS) as the contracting vehicle.

The proposed sites in West and East and North Hertfordshire PCT areas are as follows:

- Hemel Hempstead General Hospital in the West Hertfordshire
- QE11 Hospital, Welwyn Garden City in the East and North Hertfordshire

The next stage in the process will be as follows:

- The PCT will undertake further discussions with the Acute Trusts at the Delivering Quality Healthcare in Herts (DQHH) project leads meeting
- The PCT will undertake its duty of public consultation
- Following the outcome of public consultation the PCT will start the procurement process

**APMS Procurement Process –**

N.B. Prior to going out to advert, the PCT will commence dialogue with current local providers. The anticipated key dates for procurement are as follows:

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Task</b>  |
|-------------|--|
| 16.05.08    | PCTs to place adverts and Memorandum of Information (MOI)                |
| 29.08.08    | PCTs to evaluate Pre-Qualifying Questionnaires (PQQ) and select bidders  |
| 31.10.08    | SHA sign off Invitation to Tender (ITT) & PCTs issue to selected bidders |
| 31.12.08    | Contracts awarded and signed   |
| 01.03.08    | Commencement of contract   |

If you need to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact Lynn Dalton (Project Manager) on the following email address [lynn.dalton@herts-pcts.nhs.uk](mailto:lynn.dalton@herts-pcts.nhs.uk)