



6 November 2008

**Press call and photo opportunity: 10.30am Wednesday 12 November at
East Leeds Health centre, 78 Osmondthorpe Lane, Osmondthorpe,
Leeds, LS9 9EF.**

A first for Leeds

The first ever joint venture Company of its kind is being launched in Leeds, with the aim of transforming community health services across the city.

The unique joint venture between a Leeds-based GP-led provider company (Leodis Care Ltd) and Leeds LIFT company (Community Ventures Leeds Ltd), promises to significantly improve the healthcare of people living in East and South Leeds.

The two have joined forces to create **Leodis Community Ventures** which, working in partnership with the local NHS, will deliver high quality, more accessible healthcare within modern, state of the art primary care facilities in East and South Leeds.

With an ambitious plan for the future, Leodis Community Ventures is led by joint chief executives Nigel Fenny and Chris Reid who, between them, boast more than 50 year NHS experience.

Nigel Fenny, joint chief executive, said:

"This is an extremely exciting and unique project. We are two strong, credible and local organisations with a real commitment to improving health care for the 260,000 people who live in East and South Leeds."

The partnership has been welcomed by the Department of Health as nationally; LIFT companies have been encouraged to explore new partnerships and ways of working to support emerging policy.

This enthusiasm has also been supported by private and local public sector partners.

Dr Chris Reid, joint chief executive, said:

“We believe that we are in a position to truly change the landscape of healthcare in Leeds.

“We looked at our premises and concluded that if we wanted to create 21st century facilities, we needed to work strategically. Leodis Community Ventures is about retaining the local identity of the GP whilst providing the corporate vehicle to develop them. It’s about putting in place the building blocks to allow a vision for the next ten years. There is now a newer generation which expects more and we are addressing this new agenda, working more collectively to widen the range of services available from local GPs.

“Leodis is articulating national strategies and making them relevant to the people of East and South Leeds, allowing practices to drive this.”

It is believed this is the first time a GP-led service provider and a LIFT have joined together in this way to improve the way community health care is delivered.

The unique partnership brings together two organisations with a deep-rooted understanding of health delivery, policy, governance and politics. Both have a track record of working closely with the local NHS to deliver high quality health services in the city and are set to transform the landscape of healthcare provision by offering improved, more accessible healthcare, within state-of-the-art primary care centres in Leeds.

Leeds City Council chief officer for financial development and director of Leodis Community Ventures, Maureen Taylor said:

“This is an exciting partnership and is another piece in the jigsaw to improve local services. We are working hard with the community in the east of Leeds to regenerate the area and improve people’s lives and this venture should make a real difference to them.”

Private sector partner Barclays Private Equity’s **David Lomas** said:

“This partnership which brings together great capabilities. Leodis gives us access to our ultimate clients where we can deliver exactly what patients want and need. The strength of this model is that we can combine the experience and knowledge of the private sector with the public sector to provide the highest quality of patient services under one roof.”

Andy Harris, chair of Leodis Community Ventures, has been a GP partner for 14 years in a local practice.

He explained that Leodis Care gave clinicians real ownership of services and the opportunity to develop services to meet the needs of their local community.

The driver, said Andy, was the realisation that if GPs were going to continue to be robust in the primary care market, they had to work together.

“We needed to respond to two things – firstly, if we were going to allow primary care to develop further, we needed to look at the estates and secondly, if level three work came into the community, it needed to be housed somewhere,” he explained.

The partnership, said Andy, allows both the public and private sector to grasp an opportunity to mitigate risk. Days of individual practices taking financial risk to develop properties are probably gone.

“Partnerships are not easy to achieve – there are big issues which need to be addressed such as contracts, pensions, stability of existing providers and there are real risks of fragmenting the service.

“We also need to future proof our buildings so that they are able to accommodate services in a rapidly changing health care market,” Andy explained.

Dr Ken Garrett is senior partner at a nine-partner GP practice in Leeds where he has been a GP for 30 years. He is a board member of Leodis Community Ventures.

A well-known local GP, Dr Garrett was involved in forming the GP-led provider company in 2007 and sat on the initial steering group to set up Leodis Care Ltd.

“It was a very well organised, focused group and when we formed a board, I was elected as a member. It was all very professionally done and I felt the board was very competent.”

As the prescribing lead and lead for cardiac diagnostics, Dr Garrett has worked on bringing diagnostic services into the practices.

When the board started to look at improving its facilities, Dr Garrett felt the expertise of the people within Leeds LIFT Ltd was very impressive.

“I was impressed with the energy and ability of the people on the board – they were very sharp and focused. When we started to talk to Leeds LIFT I thought they were very powerful and their expertise was very clear.”

“It’s an impressive outfit and I’m quite excited about it. I can see it all dovetailing nicely as we’re all interested in the same thing – good outcomes for patients.”

ENDS

Further information:

Yvonne Reay, Act PR
07793943342

Notes to editors

Leodis Community Ventures is a joint venture which will improve the healthcare of people living in Leeds. It is working in partnership with the local NHS and is an independent organisation with a public sector ethos and objectives

Leodis Community Ventures has a vision to change the landscape of healthcare provision in Leeds, giving people high quality, more accessible healthcare in their community, within state of the art facilities.

Community Ventures Leeds Ltd (CVL) – formally Leeds LIFT

CVL is a public/private partnership established in September 2004 following the Department of Health launching the national NHS LIFT initiative to improve health and social care.

Working with local NHS organisations and Leeds City Council, its aim is to support the modernisation of health and social care services through the planning, rationalisation, re-design and development of estate and facilities.

Community Ventures Leeds Ltd has three sets of shareholders:

- Private sector – Miller Construction and Barclays Private Equity own 60% of the shares
- Public sector – Leeds PCT and Leeds City Council own 20% of the shares
- Department of Health – Partnership for Health owns the remaining 20% of the shares

Leodis Care Ltd

A GP-led provider company in Leeds, owned by its 29-practice membership of 126 GPs. Leodis has 203,000 patients registered at its member practices.

Leodis Care Ltd was established in December 2007. It is an NHS limited Provider Company, comprising shareholders within the NHS family.

Working with the NHS nationally and locally, it aims to provide more health services which are more accessible to the local community.

Currently, Leodis provides:

- diabetes clinics
- dermatology clinics
- minor surgery clinics, and

- Enhanced care to nursing and residential homes for the elderly.

Leodis member practices include:

1. Dr Addlestone & Partners
2. Arthington Medical Practice
3. Ashfield Medical Centre
4. Ashton View Medical Centre
5. Beeston Village Surgery
6. Bellbrooke Surgery
7. Conway Medical Centre
8. Garden Surgery
9. Garforth Group Medical Practice
10. Dr Garrett & Partners
11. Gibson Lane Practice
12. Dr Guckian
13. Drs Hicks & McPeake
14. Dr Houghton & Partners
15. Kippax Hall Medical Centre
16. Leeds City Medical Practice
17. Dr Leybourn & Partners
18. Lingwell Croft Surgery
19. Lofthouse Surgery
20. Manston Surgery
21. Moorfield House surgery
22. Dr Mossad
23. Nova Scotia Medical Centre
24. Park Edge Surgery
25. Shaftsbury Medical Centre
26. Dr Sooltan
27. St Martins Practice
28. The Whitfield Practice
29. Windmill Health Centre