



News release and photo opportunity

Issued Monday 10 November 2008

Unique joint venture to transform healthcare provision in Leeds

An exciting joint venture between two private and public sector organisations - believed to be the first of its kind in the country - looks set to revolutionise community health services across Leeds.

The unique partnership will improve healthcare facilities for local people and compliment wider regeneration plans for East and South Leeds, which will see Leeds City Council and its partners investing in the region of £1.2 billion in new homes, schools, transport and the environment over the next 20 years.

It involves the GP-led provider company Leodis Care and joint venture company Leeds LIFT, and will be known as **Leodis Community Ventures**. It brings together two organisations – a service provider and a facilities provider - with a sound understanding of delivering healthcare services, and policy and governance issues.

Leodis Community Ventures will work closely with local NHS organisations to deliver more accessible high quality healthcare services within state-of-the-art primary care facilities in East and South Leeds.

The joint chief executives of Leodis Community Ventures – Nigel Fenny and Chris Reid - have more than 50 years of NHS experience between them and are committed to working together to improve the health of people who live and work in Leeds. They have a proven track record of delivering high quality health centres in Leeds and ambitious business plans for the future. They aim to build on the progress that has already been made in Leeds using the Department of Health's LIFT (Local Improvement Finance Trust) model, which has led to the development of six new health centres and plans to open five more in the near future.

Maureen Taylor, who is Leeds City Council's chief officer for financial development and a director of Leodis Community Ventures, said: *"This is an exciting partnership and 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. This venture should make a real difference to them."*

Phil Harris of Miller Group, a private sector partner, said: *"This is a great opportunity to combine the two skill sets of an estates facilities provider and a clinical service provider. I don't know of any other joint venture company that has achieved this. We will be providing a genuine public service using the very best skills from both the public and private sectors. This will involve enhancing the environment in which existing services are offered, as well as creating new services within state-of-the-art buildings."*

(ENDS)

Photo opportunity/media launch event: You are invited to attend the launch of Leodis Community Ventures, which will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday 12 November at East Leeds Health Centre, 78 Osmondthorpe Lane, Osmondthorpe, Leeds, LS9 9EF.

Media contact details and interview opportunities:

- Joint chief executives of Leodis Community Ventures, Nigel Fenny and Chris Reid, are available for interview, as are Maureen Taylor and Phil Harris, who are quoted in the news release.

- If you have any questions or require an interview, please telephone Yvonne Reay at ACT PR on 0779 394 3342 or email Yvonne.reay@actpr.co.uk

Notes to editors:

- Leeds LIFT Ltd. was set up in September 2004 following the introduction of the national Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) initiative by the Department of Health (DoH). In keeping with the national shift towards involving the private sector in financing public buildings and services, the LIFT scheme has been hugely successful in improving health and social care services. Over the last three years, the LIFT model has resulted in significant healthcare developments in Leeds, including the opening of six new health centres and plans to create five more.
- Leodis Care Ltd. is a GP-led provider company based in Leeds and owned by 126 GPs operating at 29 practices across the city. Leodis is responsible for the care of 203,000 patients registered at these practices. As an NHS limited provider company (it is made up of shareholders from within the NHS), Leodis aims to provide more health services and ensure that they are more accessible to local communities. Leodis currently provides diabetes clinics, dermatology clinics and minor surgery clinics, as well as enhanced care to nursing and residential homes for the elderly.