



News release

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Friday 29 September 2006 – immediate release

A new NHS Primary Care Trust for Leicestershire and Rutland

A new single NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) covering the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland comes into being on 1st October as part of moves to ensure that the NHS locally is well placed to deliver what patients want: more choice about their care and treatment, speedy access to services, and care provided close to home.

The new Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust will replace the current Charnwood and North West Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, Rutland and Harborough and South Leicestershire PCTs.

Chairman of the new PCT, John Gant CB, is excited about the opportunities that the creation of the new organisation presents. He said: "Over the last four or five years the Primary Care Trusts in Leicestershire and Rutland have achieved a great deal. They have driven down waiting times and modernised many services for the benefit of patients. We intend to build on their good work. The new organisation, with its geographical boundaries aligned with those of local government, will strengthen relationships with social care allowing more effective joint working to tackle priorities such as reducing health inequalities and improving care for those with long-term health conditions.

"It's a very challenging time for the NHS, particularly financially, and this will be the early focus of much of our attention. We will work hard with our NHS colleagues to get the local health community back into a sustainable financial position. New ways of working, including changes in the way money moves around the NHS system, and new developments such as Practice Based Commissioning - which sees GPs and other clinicians leading the decisions about what services are needed locally – will help us to do that. We are determined both to tackle our financial difficulties and continue to improve health service for local people."

Chief Executive Catherine Griffiths is clear that a partnership approach to health is the only way forward. She said: "I am delighted to be leading the new PCT. From its inception I want it to be an organisation that listens to people. I believe that engaging with clinicians, our other NHS, local authority and voluntary sector partners, and very importantly patients and the public, is vital if we are to tackle our financial difficulties and provide the high quality, convenient, and value for money NHS that local people want. Although the PCT is much bigger than its predecessor organisations, I am keen that it's not a highly centralised organisation, and will be looking to ensure that we do not lose the very local relationships and focus already established.

"The NHS is changing; local people will see care provided in different ways and different settings in the future. More and more care will be brought out of acute hospitals and into local communities, enabling the acute hospitals to concentrate on providing the specialist care that only they can. Health services will transform over the next couple of years. This is a challenging, but very exciting time."

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Notes to editors...

Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust

Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust (LCRPCT) starts work on 1st October 2006, replacing the former Charnwood and North West Leicestershire, Hinckley and Bosworth, Melton, Rutland and Harborough and South Leicestershire PCTs. Its establishment followed an extensive programme of public consultation that included contributions from patients, the public, voluntary organisations, doctors, local authorities and NHS staff. A single PCT is also being established for the city of Leicester (Leicester City PCT) replacing the former Leicester City West and Eastern Leicester PCTs.

LCRPCT employs around 3,300 staff and has an annual budget of £663 million. It serves a population of 660,000 who live mainly in the geographical area represented by Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils.

The PCT's role is to work with local authority, voluntary sector and other partners to improve public health, and to ensure that high quality, effective and appropriate health services are available for local people. It does this through: providing primary care services itself; contracting with independent contractors such as GPs; and buying specialist healthcare services such as acute hospital, mental health and ambulance services.

LCRPCT's main headquarters office is at Lakeside House, Grove Park, Enderby, Leicester (the former Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority Headquarters).

Chairman and Chief Executive

Biographical details of our Chairman and Chief Executive are as follows:

John Gant CB, Chairman

John was Chairman of Melton, Rutland and Harborough PCT from September 2003 to September 2006. His previous career was spent with the Inland Revenue, for over eleven years in national director roles: as Director of Human Resources from 1992 to 2000 and Director of Finance from 2000 to 2003. Previously John was East of England Regional Director for the Inland Revenue. It was appointment to the Nottingham-based role of Director of HR that brought John to live in Leicestershire in 1993. John was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in the June 2003 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Catherine Griffiths, Chief Executive

Catherine joined the NHS as a management trainee. She has held a number of acute hospital posts, which culminated in her appointment as Deputy Unit General Manager of Birmingham Children's Hospital. Catherine then successfully led the Birmingham Women's Hospital to Trust status and became its first Chief Executive.

Following three years as Director of Commissioning at Birmingham Health Authority, Catherine led the successful merger of a community and a mental health Trust to create South Warwickshire Combined Care Trust where she was Chief Executive.

Catherine then held the post of Chief Executive at South Warwickshire PCT. She joins the new Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT from a secondment role, working for David Nicholson as Managing Director of the West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority.

Photographs of John and Catherine are available upon request, from the contact details below.

Contact for further information

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