



MEDIA RELEASE

27 August 2020

Work to get underway next month on modern GP practice in Crediton

People from Crediton and the surrounding areas will benefit from a major NHS funding boost to improve local GP facilities as construction work is due to begin next month on Crediton's brand new, purpose-built health hub.

New Valley and Chiddenbrook GP practices in Crediton will receive a £6 million long term loan from the NHS England Estates and Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF) - a national funding programme to support GP practices to make improvements to services for local patients including more modern, expanded facilities, use of new technologies and better integration with the wider health and social care system.

The project will provide one of the largest new facilities in the south west region supported by the ETTF and will future-proof the delivery of healthcare locally for Crediton and the surrounding communities.

The NHS Fund has provided 80% of the project's financing together with welcome support from Mid Devon District Council who have loaned the balance of the funding for the project.

Building contractors Kier will be moving onto the site - behind the Tesco superstore - on 28th September 2020.

The modern facility will merge the town's two existing surgeries into one multi-purpose facility. The branch surgery at Thorverton will continue to operate.

The project has been spearheaded by Dr Jo Harris, lead GP at New Valley, and Dr Peter Twomey, lead GP at Chiddenbrook. The two GPs expect the facility to radically improve the way healthcare is delivered in the town.

Dr Twomey said: "Crediton's population is set to rise over the next 5-10 years, and with that the demands on our practice will also increase. We are very keen to maintain and improve the care and the continuity of care we provide to our patients as we seek to meet this anticipated escalation in demand and expectation."

"The way GP practice services are being delivered is changing and working in a modern, purpose-built facility will bring huge benefits for our service. Different ways of working will enable us to offer a wider breadth of services whilst maintaining continuity for the patients who need it.

“This wonderful new facility will provide patients with a state-of-the-art health hub that can tackle current and future challenges head on.

“By combining the town’s existing practices, we’ll be able to make better use of clinicians’ time and enable patients to get the care they need quicker and more easily.”

Dr Harris added: “It’s fantastic news for the town that work has got underway on the new health hub.

“It’s been a long journey to get here – around five years from the project’s inception – but a necessary one, as it ensures the town will have GP services that are sustainable and fit for purpose.

“The building has been designed around the services that we want to offer patients. As well as being a spacious and modern building, this new practice will provide a range of flexible facilities and services under one roof.

“We are absolutely delighted that the project has finally been signed off and we can start planning for our new future”

Dr Twomey added “It has been a real collaboration and we couldn’t have achieved it alone. We are very grateful for the support of NHS England, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning Group, Mid Devon District Council, our colleagues within the Mid Devon Primary Care Network and the many other stakeholders too numerous to mention.”

The new L shaped building will have two floors and will house a number of innovative features, including 16 multi-purpose clinical rooms and 8 telephone/video consultation booths that can be used by different clinicians. A double height entrance atrium will flood the building with light to promote wellbeing in staff and patients alike.

The spacious waiting room will contain devices and literature to help patients get to grips with new NHS technology, fill out online consultation forms and learn more about self-care.

There will also be facilities for training GPs and nurses, rooms for patient groups to meet, and additional office space and IT equipment for staff.

The practice will also benefit from ample parking facilities – which the existing sites are lacking – and will be easily accessible by public transport.

The building is scheduled to be completed towards the end of next summer, with patients expected through the door in Autumn 2021.

ENDS

For more information contact Richard Ward, Chiddenbrook Practice Manager, on 01363 772227

2 Images attached:

Caption:

Architect 3D impressions of the new Crediton GP Surgery designed by Grainge Architects, Exeter.

Notes to Editors

- The two practices will be co-ordinating a very small turf-cutting ceremony on Friday 25 September ahead of the construction work fully starting.
- The Estates and Technology Transformation Fund (ETTF) is a multi-million pound programme to accelerate the development of GP premises and technology. It is designed to improve facilities, increase flexibility to accommodate multi-disciplinary teams and develop the right infrastructure to expand the range of care for patients, add more training facilities and make greater use of technology.
- The Estates and Technology Transformation Fund is part of wider work to increase investment in general practice, with a plan set out in General Practice Forward View, for an extra £2.4bn in general practice nationally by 2020/21.
- For more information on The Estates and Technology Transformation Fund: www.england.nhs.uk/ettf