

South Bristol Community Hospital

New hospital for South Bristol - signed, sealed, delivered!



Artist's impression of the new hospital

This was the message from NHS Bristol to local people in South Bristol as confirmation came that contracts had been exchanged late on Friday, 12 February 2010, to mark the very final stage in securing the new state of the art £45 million community hospital to be built at Hengrove Park in Bristol.

The signing of contracts follows an intensive period in which final legal and financial details were completed after approval was given by the Department of Health last November. Building work is expected to start within a few weeks and the new hospital should be ready to open its doors in the spring of 2012.

NHS Bristol chief executive, Deborah Evans said: "I am delighted to be able to make the announcement which confirms that contracts for the South Bristol Community Hospital have been signed – there's no going back from here. It's exciting to think that the construction work will begin in a few short weeks and local people will finally see real

proof of progress. It's been a long journey to get to this point but the support of local people in south Bristol has been our inspiration throughout."

The new hospital will provide people in south Bristol with local access to a range of services including diagnostic tests, walk-in urgent care centre for minor illness and injury, booked appointments with hospital consultants and other specialists, an '8am to 8pm' GP service; a day surgical treatment centre and an integrated community rehabilitation service with inpatient beds.

Ben Bennett, associate director for NHS Bristol who has led the project since 2003 said "Everyone in the project team is thrilled, it's been a long process but what has felt like a marathon at times ended as a sprint to the line as we worked intensively in the last few days to get the final commercial details in place before the deadline. This has been a partnership from start to finish, no more so than in the final days when all of our partners and friends worked with us to get the contract over the line. I am extremely grateful for all of the support and help we have in getting the project to this point. Now we can finally get on and build the hospital!"

The £45 million hospital will be developed by Bristol Infracare LIFT, a public-private partnership established by NHS Bristol in 2004. The LIFT company, which has already provided four new health centres across Bristol, has assembled an experienced design and construction team led by Carillion and local architects AWW.

Sue Field, managing director of Bristol Community Health, which will run and manage services at the new hospital said:

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Hospital signed, sealed, delivered

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“We are really looking forward to running modern and innovative services including Bristol’s first urgent care centre and working in partnership with a range of different organisations and local people. Staff at the new urgent care centre will be able to manage a variety of conditions that adults and children would otherwise have to go to hospital emergency departments to be diagnosed and treated. Some of these services are already available at the Walk-in Centre at Knowle West Health Park, but when the service moves to the new hospital, staff will be able to manage more patients with complex needs.

Mark Nebel, chief executive of Bristol Infracare LIFT said: “It’s fantastic news that we are now in a position to start work on building the hospital after all the hard work that has gone into designing and approving the scheme. We look forward to providing a well designed, modern hospital building for south Bristol and seeing it opened to patients in 2012.”

David Perkin, director of AWW Architects for the project said: “We’re thrilled that this final hurdle has been overcome and that we can now get the project onto site. This building will use 30% less energy than the NHS best practice benchmark and represents a genuinely sustainable development for the community of South Bristol”.

A public consultation on the proposals was undertaken in 2004 and, throughout this process, local people signalled their strong support for a new facility to provide local health services which will replace the facilities at the 19th Century Bristol General Hospital.

The development of a new community hospital in south Bristol is part of a wider strategy to improve health services nearer to home for people across Bristol and in neighbouring areas which includes the development of easy to access walk-in urgent care centres, five new dental surgeries throughout the city, new GP surgeries in Broadmead and more.

Financial close for North Bristol NHS Trust’s

new super hospital development at Southmead is expected to take place later this month.

The infrastructure works commissioned by Bristol City Council to create new roads and services on the site at Hengrove will be completed this month.

The City of Bristol Skills Academy is already under construction on the Hengrove park site and will open to students in September. Together with the hospital and a leisure centre this will make up the £100 million Hengrove Park first phase.

Let us know what you think!

Contact the South Bristol Community Hospital project team

Contact Helen Barrett on:

telephone: 0117 900 2543

email: helen.barrett3@bristolpct.nhs.uk

or

fill out and send in the slip on the back page to let us know what you think.

Campaigners see end in sight for their wait



Dennis Street, 83, campaigner

News that building work on the South Bristol Community Hospital will start next month has been welcomed by local people who say there has been a campaign since 1947.

Dennis Street, aged 83, who lives in Hartcliffe, has been showing the NHS information relating to plans for a hospital in South Bristol going back several decades. During his life he has been a campaigner and a ward councillor for Bristol City Council from 1968 to 1971.

"Both Hartcliffe and I have waited over 50 years to hear this news. It's a real cause for celebration."

"The new hospital will mean that the people of South Bristol will be able to get treatment for things like broken bones, in their local area, particularly at weekends, when up until now this has not been possible."

"All the campaigning has been worthwhile and it is great to see it all come to a successful conclusion." He said that some people involved in campaigning have not lived to see the start made on the hospital, including the late Michael Cocks MP who went on to become Lord Cocks of Hartcliffe.

Dennis went on to recall the start of the campaign for a new hospital: "I think a hospital for South Bristol was first muted in 1947. The plan was to build a brand new hospital on the land opposite the current Hengrove park site which is now occupied by offices."

In 1957 Dennis was involved in a 5,000 name petition for a new hospital in South Bristol.

"At the time South Bristol did not have its own hospital, the health centre was out of date and no police officers or teachers lived on the Hartcliffe estate. For many people getting into the centre of Bristol for hospital appointments was time consuming and expensive. Hartcliffe people wanted a local hospital that was easy for them to get to."

"The petition was presented to the then health minister, Richard Crossman. He announced that the hospital would be built but those particular plans did not come to fruition."

"During the 1970s another large petition was presented to Enoch Powell for a new hospital. But again the power of the people was not strong enough to bring about a hospital for the people of South Bristol."

He went on to explain that a new hospital became tantalisingly close in 1989. "The council approved the plans for a new hospital but at the twelfth hour Bristol University opposed the plans to locate a hospital in South Bristol as they believed that newly trained doctors would not want to go to South Bristol especially as the BRI is next to the University."

"But we local people have welcomed the recent consultation and planning for the current hospital. The NHS was given overwhelming support for its plan in 2004 and since then they have been very good at keeping us informed as the planning went through various hoops to get to this stage."

"History told us it would never happen because we had been let down so many times in the past. But with the first sod about to be cut we can finally believe that our long held dream is going to come true for South Bristol".



Write to us if you'd like to know more about South Bristol Community Hospital

Write your question(s)/comments here. We'll try to respond in our next newsletter. Please send this in to Helen Barrett at NHS Bristol, South Plaza, Marlborough Street, Bristol, BS1 3NX. Alternatively, you can email your questions and comments to her at: helen.barrett3@bristolpct.nhs.uk

Name and address _____
(optional) _____