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Ref

Friday 5 March Hengrove Park

Spade in the ground marks start of work on South Bristol Community Hospital

A ground cutting ceremony will mark the official start of work on the new state of the art £54 million community hospital to be built at Hengrove Park in Bristol.

Financial close was announced by NHS Bristol in February.

Today (5 March) local MP Dawn Primarolo, will be accompanied by Tara Mistry from NHS Bristol, at the official cutting of the first sod together with representatives from Bristol Infracare Lift, Bristol Community Health, Carillion and local city councillors.

Tara Mistry, NHS Bristol vice chair said: "It has been a long time coming but this is the reality that work is now starting on this hospital.

Dawn Primarolo. MP for Bristol South, added: "This hospital will be fantastic for residents in Bristol South. So many local people joined the campaign to get our hospital off the ground, and getting building work underway is brilliant news. With a wide range of facilities and treatments available for patients, the hospital will definitely be worth the wait".

The hospital is part of Hengrove Park first phase with investment totalling £100 million, which also includes a new City of Bristol Skills Academy already under construction as well as a leisure centre.

The first patients will be seen at the new £45 million hospital in spring 2012. The local NHS community provider Bristol Community Health will be managing a number of services for the new hospital including the walk-in urgent care centre for minor illness and injury; community rehabilitation service with inpatient beds and out-patients in partnership with hospital consultants and other specialists.

Others services will include an '8am to 8pm' GP service and a day surgical treatment centre and diagnostic services eg. X-ray.

Susan Field, Managing Director of Bristol Community Health, said: "As an organisation we have been involved in the planning for the hospital over a number of years working closely

with local people. The hospital will make a real difference to the people of Bristol and the whole team at Bristol Community Health are looking forward to running modern and innovative services including South Bristol's first urgent care centre working in partnership with a range of different organisations and local people"

The hospital will be developed by Bristol Infracare LIFT, a public-private partnership established 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.

Mark Nebel, chief executive of Bristol Infracare LIFT said: "It's great news that we are starting 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."

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Notes to Editors:

- 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 2010. Together with the hospital and a leisure centre this will make up the £100 million Hengrove Park first phase

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