

PAT/08/007

4 February, 2008

Media invite...

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£1 MILLION INVESTMENT PROVIDES MODERN NEW HOME FOR DIABETES CENTRE AT NORTH MANCHESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL

A £1 million investment in facilities at North Manchester General Hospital has enabled the expanding diabetes service to move into a modern new home.

The team is now based in the former Homewood building, which underwent a £930,000 refurbishment to convert it from its previous use as a stroke and general rehabilitation unit. Meanwhile, the rehabilitation unit has been transferred to Ward E1 of the main hospital building at a cost of £130,000.

The new Diabetes and Endocrinology Centre, in a building also shared by the Occupational Health service, offers more comfortable, purpose-designed surroundings for patients and a closer working environment for staff. It is only a short walk from the old diabetes centre.

Benefits of the move include an increased number of consulting rooms, which will help to reduce waiting times and widen the potential for training, and greater privacy for patients attending the foot clinic, who can now be seen in cubicles rather than in an open space divided by curtains.

Other benefits of the new building include an improvement in the quality of research facilities, which incorporate a number of multinational studies as well as local award-winning projects, and better conditions for the secretaries, who now have adjacent rooms rather than being spread around the department.

Professor Philip Wiles, consultant in diabetes and endocrinology, said: "With the support of Pennine Acute Trust, which runs the hospital, the service had developed in such a way that we had outgrown the old building.

"One example of this is that the foot service has expanded in collaboration with the community podiatry service. The team has pioneered an ultra-lightweight, soft-cast system for protecting ulcerated feet and that has resulted in far more referrals. The endocrine service, too, has grown requiring more consultants and larger clinics to accommodate the increasing referrals."

Nadine Broecker, directorate manager for endocrine and diabetes, added: "We are delighted with this new centre, which offers an improved working environment at all levels and makes it easier for staff to collaborate. The move will help us to continue providing a quality service to the increasing number of patients referred to us by consultants and GPs in the north Manchester area."

Patients can continue to contact the diabetes centre on the same telephone numbers as before.

Karen James, director of operations for Pennine Acute Trust, said: "We are continually striving to make services better for patients and our substantial investment in this high-quality facility reflects our continued commitment to the provision of first-class diabetes care."

You are invited to send photographers/reporters/camera crew to the following media opportunity:

Time: 12.30pm

Day: Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Place: Diabetes and Endocrinology Centre, North Manchester General Hospital, Delaunays Road, Crumpsall.

Staff will be marking the opening of the new Diabetes and Endocrinology Centre, and some patients will also be available for photos.