

NHS staff and patients set to benefit from new Yeovil Health Centre

We are pleased to announce the opening of a new GP Led Health Centre in Yeovil on 12 August 2009 which is set to offer the public and potentially NHS staff themselves, added choice and convenience when it comes to getting health treatment or advice.

Simply called the 'NHS Yeovil Health Centre', the new facility is located on the first floor of the Boots store in Middle Street, Yeovil. Opening hours are from 8.00am till 8.00pm, seven days a week and including public holidays. A new lift has just been installed in Boots which makes access to the Health Centre much easier.

Anyone visiting the centre can expect to have access to 'walk-in' health advice and medical treatment. They don't have to be registered with the Health Centre, they could be registered with their own GP or not registered anywhere. However, if they wish they can register with the new Health Centre and receive the same high quality services they would receive at any GP practice.

The name may be new, but NHS staff in Yeovil will be familiar with the consortium of GPs from four local GP practices who have united under the name 'Pathways Health and Social Care Alliance', to manage and operate the new service. Dr. Paul Scott is the Medical Director and Christopher Franklin the Practice Manager.

Dr. Nott-Bowyer, Chief Executive for Pathways explained: "The new Yeovil Health Centre will offer quick and easy access and good quality health services. By locating the centre within Boots we know people will have no difficulty finding us and medicines can immediately be dispensed by the Boots pharmacy, whose hours of opening will be the same as those of the health centre. However, patients can choose which pharmacy they prefer to use.

"The new Yeovil Health Centre is not replacing any GP surgeries in the area but is providing additional healthcare services. Patients who use the centre can do so with confidence and know that their needs will be met, whatever their problem; whether it is urgent or routine, by walking in or on the phone."

It doesn't matter whether you have a minor injury, need a flu jab, or just want some health advice, the new Yeovil Health Centre, will be available to all.

One of the aims of the Health Centre is to relieve the hospital of some of its minor injuries and ailments work, allowing it to concentrate on the more serious cases.

NHS Somerset (aka Somerset Primary Care Trust) has commissioned and tendered the new service and expects the Health Centre will provide much needed access to GP services to the many who don't always have the understanding, motivation or money to maintain good health. This includes migrant workers, those with different cultural experiences or travellers, who may not stay in one place for very long.

NHS staff are sure to find patients and even friends and relatives, likely to benefit from its services, so remember to keep a note of the centre's new **Telephone number** which with effect from 12 August 2009 is: **01935 709269**
web site: www.yeovilhealthcentre.nhs.uk

If you have any queries please contact Nicola Thorne, Programme Manager, Tel. No. 01935 384191. We will shortly be publishing a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document to help staff better understand the services provided.