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Ref: Bradley stoke

Plans for health services in Bradley Stoke well in hand

South Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust were extremely surprised and disappointed to read the statement from the South Gloucestershire Conservative Group regarding the need for a battle to fight for improved healthcare facilities in Bradley Stoke. The PCT has been working with the Council since 2006 in developing plans for the area. A consultation with local residents determined the direction of travel prioritising the development of existing GP surgeries and, noting the number of residents who have been unable to register with an NHS dentist, a dental development.

Given this feedback the PCT Board agreed to invest in three GP surgeries in the area to enable them to expand their local services and to explore directly with the Council the opportunity for a new dental practice as part of the new town centre development.

As far back as the 30th November 2006 a joint statement was issued from the Council and the Primary Care Trust in which the Council leaders, including a representative of the Conservative Group, stated: "We welcome the PCT's plans for investment in healthcare facilities in Bradley Stoke." (Press statement attached.)

More recently the PCT has met with the Council Cabinet and taken them through the detail of each of the schemes. All of the practice developments should be completed by the end of 2008/9 and, having already set aside the funding, the PCT is in direct discussion with a potential provider regarding the dental practice.

Speaking from the PCT today, Penny Harris, chief executive said: "The development of healthcare in Bradley Stoke is a priority for this PCT but it is important that we do so in a way that enables the greatest access to care and responds directly to the views of residents shared with us during consultation. We have given formal public commitments to these developments and have set aside the funding for the schemes to commence. We fail to understand why any members of the Council do not believe this to be a firm and detailed plan."

ends

For further information please contact Vicky O'Loughlin, Head of Communications on 0117 900 2694