

News Release



Date: 13th March 2009

AMBER LIGHT FOR NEW £32M 'WELL BEING CENTRE' IN HOLT PARK

Leeds City Council today welcomed the news that it has provisionally received funding for a £32 million 'well-being centre' in north west Leeds.

The Department of Health has confirmed the allocation in principle of £32.0 million of PFI credits for the new centre, in Holt Park, which will combine services provided by Leeds City Council's adult social care, youth and sports services, NHS Leeds, and the local community.

As well as swimming pools and a gym, the centre will contain meeting rooms, activity rooms, treatment and consulting rooms, daytime opportunities for people of all abilities and potentially a cafe/bar. Over the next six months Leeds City Council will establish and work with a Holt Park Stakeholder Group and NHS Leeds to develop the precise mix of services and facilities to be included.

The well being centre will replace Holt Park's existing health centre and leisure centre and improve the accessibility of care and support as well as leisure services for the Holt Park local community and surrounding area. This is the first centre of its type in Leeds, and one of the first in the entire UK.

Councillor Peter Harrand, executive board member for adult health and social care said:

"The news that the government have provisionally agreed to support our proposal is excellent news for Leeds. We want this centre to be a first for our city - a centre which really brings home the link between health and an active lifestyle, and one where people at all stages of life can meet as a community."

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Councillor John Procter, executive board member for leisure added:

“Leeds constantly promotes services to encourage healthy, active lifestyles for people of all ages. Bringing sport and recreation services together with health and day opportunities bring this to a whole new level, and could make a real difference to the lives of people in Holt Park and the surrounding areas.”

Over the next few months, Leeds City Council in consultation with the local community will develop an outline business case and outline planning application for submission to the Department of Health in Autumn 2009. If this is successful it will secure the funding for the centre and procurement of a contractor and development of a detailed planning application

Construction could start on the site as early as Summer 2010.

Anyone who wants to take part in the Stakeholder Group and to be notified of meetings should email newleaf@leeds.gov.uk or telephone Helen Evans on 0113 224 3184.

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