



NUMBER ONE: The first patient treated at the new Stanley Primary Care Centre, Marian Nelson, holding flowers, with (l-r) Sue Elsbury, practice manager Stanley Medical Group, Carole Hutchinson, centre manager, and Dr John Bissan

First patient impressed with Stanley's new Primary Care Centre

IMPRESSIVE, big, modern and airy – that's the verdict of the first patient to visit the new, £12m Stanley Primary Care Centre.

Marian Nelson, from Stanley, became the first patient of Stanley Medical Group to be treated at the new primary care centre when it opened to the public recently.

The new centre, on Clifford Road, brings together a wide range of services under one roof in a modern healthcare environment.

Marian, who works at the University Hospital of North Durham, said: "A new development such as this is long overdue in the town."

"Walking up to the centre, I was impressed with how big and modern it is."

"When you step inside you realise how light and airy the build-

ing is and I really like the informal spaces where people can sit down and relax."

"The wide range of children's services in the centre is impressive, especially the multi-sensory room and courtyard areas."

The centre was designed to make a strong architectural statement in the town centre and feedback from visitors has been very positive, as recorded in the centre's comments book:

- "Very impressive building with excellent facilities. Very futuristic design and a big improvement from last clinic."

- "Loads of space, gorgeous building."

- "Excellent! Great building, very caring staff and doctors."

David Gallagher, director of partnerships and services, said:

The centre is home to

- Stanley Medical Group
- Drs Partha and Malika
- X-ray and ultrasound
- Adult physiotherapy
- Community dental service
- Minor operations
- Podiatry
- Child Development Centre
- Children's Therapy Services

"We are absolutely delighted with the way the centre has been received by local people."

"We are committed to ensuring that the people of Stanley receive high-quality health services from the centre and hope that it proves

to be a huge asset for many years to come."

The centre was also built to make a strong architectural statement and contribute to the regeneration of Stanley town centre – it makes an impressive impact on the town centre.

Sue Elsbury, practice manager at Stanley Medical Group, said: "We are all very excited about the prospects and opportunities the new premises will bring to the practice."

The additional space will allow us to improve the current services and offer a wider range of additional services to our patient population."

The old health centre is currently being demolished and will be replaced by a car park, which is due for completion in February 2010.

Local guide to health services dropped through everyone's door

NHS County Durham and Darlington is currently distributing booklets to every household across the area, explaining how to get access to the health services people need, what they should expect from their services and who to approach with concerns or questions.

The guide, called Pictures of Health, targets all areas of County Durham and Darlington. It aims to inform the public about health services available to them in their local area and about how their money is being spent to improve and modernise services.

The booklet has information on accessing local healthcare providers, including the closest hospital, access to GP services, and the new 24/7 urgent care service. It explains how people in County Durham and Darlington can become involved in healthcare and shows how well local health services are doing against the standards patients should expect.

Pictures of Health also lists NHS County Durham and Darlington's four key aims, which are to improve the health of the population, reduce health inequalities, increase access to safe patient centred services and ensure value for money in commissioning services.

The guide also includes information about what NHS County Durham and Darlington does, how to access information in different formats (e.g. other languages) should you need to, how to get advice from the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) and explains what support you can get from local mental health services.

Yasmin Chaudhry, Chief Executive of NHS County Durham and Darlington said: "The booklet acts as a reference for accessing a range of healthcare. It also keeps people informed on what our goals are for the future, and explains how our annual healthcare budget is being spent this year."

"When we asked people how they wanted to receive information about our work in their local community, most said they'd like to read clear information in a paper format or to receive a copy on-line. We took that on board and Pictures of Health is the result."

Diane Lax, LNK team leader, Darlington, said: "Pictures of Health is a really useful guide for getting information about health services if you're not sure where to go."

"Having details to hand for local GPs, pharmacists and opticians on top of useful information about the complaints procedure and how the Patient Advice and Liaison Service can help with any queries means you can find the answers to so many questions in case I ever need to use it."



New Stop Smoking Service in Newton Aycliffe

THE NHS Stop Smoking Service is now offering extra drop-in sessions at community venues across Newton Aycliffe.

People wanting help to quit smoking can see stop-smoking advisors and health visitors for advice and prescrip-

tions for nicotine replacement.

If you would like to quit or find out more about the FREE support available, just pop along to one of the venues, no appointment is needed.

The new drop-in sessions

are held at the following venues:

Monday: 12:30pm-2pm, Neville Community Centre, Neville Parade, Newton Aycliffe.
Monday: 3pm-5pm, The Workplace, Heighington Lane, Aycliffe Industrial Estate.
Tuesday: 6pm-8:30pm, Pio-

neering Care Centre

Since the Stop Smoking Service was launched in 1999, more than 40,000 people in the Durham and Darlington area have successfully been helped to quit smoking, the UK's biggest killer.

In the last decade, 175,000

people in the North-East – more than any other region in England – have been able to ditch cigarettes, thanks to the expert help they receive.

Services are still available at GPs' surgeries, pharmacies, dental practices and workplaces where you can

see advisors, but you will need to ring for an appointment.

Most smokers want to stop. If you are one of them, or you just want more information, contact your local NHS Stop Smoking Service on 0191 5692523.