



PRESS RELEASE

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New Primary Care Centre and Paediatric Centre

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar and the Gibraltar Health Authority are fully committed to elevating good quality healthcare to excellent healthcare, and as such, are truly proud to announce a new and fully bespoke Primary Care and Community Centre and a Paediatric Centre, in the surrounding grounds of St Bernard's Hospital.

The Paediatric Centre will combine children's medical health services under one roof. The project has been driven by a team of clinicians who specialise in paediatric healthcare. The centre will be a cutting-edge hub for parents and their children with a wide range of healthcare services, in a convenient and child friendly environment, delivered by highly trained specialist staff. Children's healthcare will include multidisciplinary primary and secondary outpatient paediatric medical care. There will be a full range of child services available, including Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Child and Adolescent Psychology, Audiology and Child welfare services, including Health Visitors and Immunisation services.

Medical Director and Consultant Paediatrician Dr Daniel Cassaglia said, "This represents a paradigm shift in the way we deliver healthcare for children. This project has been one that has been very close to my heart and is the creation of the team of GHA professionals working with children. We all know how worrying it can be when our children become unwell and we need access to healthcare. The team of specialist professionals at the Paediatric Centre will be able to provide a friendly and efficient service and ensure that the child sees the right professional in a timely manner. This will give peace of mind to parents, grandparents and carers. We will be able to deliver better continuity of care and improved access to services particularly for children with special needs and for those children who have long-term medical conditions. The team will be able to work closer together for the benefit of the children they serve. This Centre will radically improve the way in which children's services are delivered for future generations to come."

The Primary Care and Community Centre will be a brand new three-storey building designed around the needs and advice of the health care professionals working in the primary care system. Primary care in itself will become a much more comprehensive service, focussing on improving community services and aiming to repatriate services from tertiary centres and secondary care, to where they are best provided.

Ministry of Health, Care and Justice

HM Government of Gibraltar • Zone 1, Level 7 St Bernard's Hospital, Harbour Views Road • Gibraltar GX11 1AA

t +350 20007011 (Centrex 2027) f +350 20059942 e ministry@gha.gi w gibraltar.gov.gi



The development has been designed with the future in mind and teams will be working in integrated departments with increased office space, to make provisions for the further development of all primary health services. Whilst the backbone of this service is that of GP clinics, there will also be additional services such as an expanded health promotion, a 'walk in' minor treatment area and provision for an out of hours GP service. Familiar departments such as nursing, district nursing, diabetes, asthma clinics, community physiotherapy and occupational therapy will all be enhanced, improved and located close together to create a more cohesive team and increase efficiency.

Deputy Medical Director and GP Lead, Dr Krishna Rawal said "This is an amazing project that has been the result of extremely hard work and extensive input from all the different departments to provide a truly Community Care Centre. The result is not only new, modern and future proof, but also integrated and much more patient friendly. A great deal of thought has gone into the design of this building and we have definitely learned from our experiences in creating and running a primary care service."

Fundamentally, this new Primary Care and Community Service is reflects the central theme of integration, where primary care can now work closer with secondary care and streamline communication between GPs and primary care professionals, and their secondary care and consultant colleagues."

Minister for Health, Care and Justice, the Honourable Mr Neil F Costa MP said, "This one single project represents one of the most significant in my time serving as the Minister for Health. As I never tire of saying, I feel incredibly privileged to serve our community and to work with so many excellent professionals to improve our healthcare services. The new Primary Care and Community Centre is the culmination of our efforts towards allowing clinicians to guide and lead our health services, while always listening to patients and placing them in the centre of everything we do. Vital to this, are the fundamental values of integrating our healthcare services and repatriating as many of these services back to Gibraltar, for the benefit of our entire community. It makes me immensely proud to announce this project, to see that the hard work and dedication by our healthcare professionals and our dedicated staff at the Gibraltar Health Authority, which has enabled this incredibly exciting project to come to fruition. I am confident that we will deliver a Primary Care Centre and Paediatrics Centre, which will enhance our services to our community and serve us well for now and in the future."

The Chief Minister, the Honourable Fabian Picardo QC MP said "In every Government's term of office, there are a few announcements that will make huge improvements to people's quality of life – and this is certainly one such initiative. I am sure that every parent will be as excited as I am at the superb facilities which are being provided at the Paediatric Centre and I must draw everyone's attention to the enormous amount of planning that has gone into this development and that of the new Primary Care Centre. I really must thank all the clinicians and healthcare professionals who have worked tirelessly to bring so many exciting ideas to fruition."

"I also want to thank my ministerial colleague and friend Neil Costa for his work and dedication in making these plans a reality. His work, his team's work and the work of all our professionals in this area makes all the difference to the lives of people who need medical care in our community and we are going to improve the physical infrastructure available for that care considerably with the projects announced today."