

NEWS FROM ISLAND HEALTH

10 May 1995

"NEW WAVE" HEALTH CENTRE BOOSTS SERVICES ON ISLE OF DOGS

A £1.8 million health centre, one of the "new wave" medical centres designed to accommodate a wider range of health care services within the community, has opened on the Isle of Dogs, London Docklands.

Guest of honour at the opening of *Island Health*, adjacent to the ASDA superstore, was Professor Brian Jarman OBE, PLD, FRGP, FRCGP, who delivered an inaugural lecture "Primary Care in the Inner Cities" before an invited audience of health care professionals.

Island Health is pioneering the type of health centre that will set the pattern for London in the future, by bringing together teams of health professionals who will provide a whole range of services easily accessible to local people. It is an example of the direction for primary care recommended by the Government in its report *Making London Better*.

The new centre is a "one-stop health shop", providing accommodation for up to seven GPs and a trainee, two dentists, an optician, social worker and 18 community health workers, including district nurses, health visitors, school nurses, two psychologists, an occupational therapist and psychiatric nurses.

In addition, psychotherapy and a range of other therapies will be offered on a sessional basis while consultants and staff from local hospitals will hold outpatient clinics for Isle of Dogs residents. Welfare benefit advice will continue to be available.



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Regional Health Authority

Local health agencies and London University will use Island Health as a centre for training, education and research in primary health care. Medical students from Queen Mary and Westfield College will carry out some of their practical training there, as will trainee practice nurses from the North Thames region and Tower Hamlets Healthcare Trust staff.

In all, it will provide a work base for up to 70 people. Rooms can also be rented out for community group meetings, ante-natal classes and carer support groups.

The scheme is also breaking new ground as a collaboration between health and local authorities. North East Thames Regional Health Authority (now North Thames Regional Health Authority) contributed £800,000 towards development costs and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), £500,000, through its Social Accord agreement with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The Centre is managed by the Island Health Charitable Trust, a non-profit making educational charity - the first of its kind - which raised the remaining development costs through a loan from the General Practice Finance Corporation. The Trustees include representatives of local residents, health professionals and the funding bodies.

Lady Riches, who brings 40 years' experience of health care in East London to her position as Chair of Trustees, said: "The Trust is committed to providing the best possible environment for the delivery of high quality healthcare to the people on the Isle of Dogs."

"The London Docklands Development Corporation has worked in partnership with the local health agencies to secure the very best health facilities and services for the growing Docklands population," said LDDC Assistant Chief Executive (Development) and Island Health Trustee, Roger Squire. "Island Health is the best example to date of the type of modern, flexible health care the LDDC has endeavoured to secure with its £3.75 million investment across the whole of the London Docklands area."

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"Improving primary care is one of North Thames RHA's main priorities. Island Health, which I know well, is an excellent example of how the primary health care team brings a wide range of services to the doorstep of the local people," says Sir William Staveley, Chairman.

Cllr Yve Amor, Chair of Tower Hamlets Social Services, said: "Good health services are extremely important and we are very pleased that the partnership between ourselves and other agencies has ensured that the local community can benefit from this new, multi-purpose health centre."

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