

News Release



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'MEDICS' STAR OPENS REFURBISHED WAPPING HEALTH CENTRE

Wapping Health Centre has re-opened with enhanced health services following a seven month refurbishment programme. The Centre was officially opened by actress and television personality, Sue Johnston, from the ITV series 'Medics'.

Refurbishment of the Health Centre, became necessary following the population increase resulting from the regeneration of the Wapping area.

The refurbishment, totalling £440,000, includes the provision of two extra GP consulting rooms, a dedicated dental suite, a consulting suite for child health clinics, a dedicated room for the practice nurse and a more efficient use of the entrance and waiting area.

The project has been funded through the £35 million Social Accord Agreement between the London Docklands Development Corporation and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The Centre now has the following services:

- * Four General Practitioners
- * Associated administration and support staff
- * Health promotion
- * Health visiting
- * District nursing
- * School nursing
- * Family planning

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LDDC Assistant Chief Executive, New City, Elizabeth Filkin says: "The Corporation welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with both the health authorities and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is pleased to be able to contribute towards the provision of enhanced health facilities in Wapping".

Councillor Gwyneth Deakins, Joint Chair, Implementation Forum, London Borough of Tower Hamlets says: "I am very glad that the Accord has been able to finance this much needed facility and I am sure that the people of Wapping will appreciate greatly what has been done for them".

Christine Carter, Head of Locality Services at the Royal London Hospital (NHS) Trust says: "We are delighted with our refurbished centre and would like to thank all concerned for making it happen and providing this facility for the users of Wapping Health Centre".

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

The Wapping Health Centre building in Wapping Lane is owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The ground floor is leased by the Royal London Hospital Trust, who in turn rent the space to the GP practice and dentist.

The population rise in the Urban Development Area in Wapping, from 5,226 to 8,972 between 1981 and 1990, stimulated a demand for additional staff and services at the Health Centre. This resulted in an increased demand on the available space within the building.

The Health Authority asked the LDDC for a financial contribution towards the cost of refurbishment and in 1990 this was granted through the Social Accord.

During the seven month refurbishment period, Wapping Health Centre was relocated to St Peters Community Arts and Education Centre.

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