

News Release

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POPLAR TO GET NEW HEALTH CENTRE

Construction of a new £1.4 million health centre is due to start shortly in Poplar, East London. The design and build contract has been awarded to Mansell Ltd.

The new centre at Newby Place, Poplar, on land formerly owned by the Diocese of London in the All Saints Conservation Area, will be paid for by contributions from the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) through the Social Accord agreement with Tower Hamlets Council, the East London and City Health Authority (ELCHA), the City & East London Family & Community Health Service (CELFACS) and the London Implementation Group.

A trust has been formed to manage the building contract and eventually to run the centre when it opens early next year. The trust, the Newby Place Health and Community Services Company which is currently seeking charitable status, has raised the balance of capital required to build the new centre through a private loan.

The two storey building will initially provide modern accommodation for two GPs, their staff and community health workers employed by CELFACS. It will replace an existing health centre in Poplar High Street and a single GP practice close by on East India Dock Road, both of which are hampered from expansion by inflexible design and poor physical condition.

The intention is to provide a focus for health activities in the community and encourage integration of the many services available.

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Just under £0.4 million towards the project's cost has come from the London Docklands Development Corporation. LDDC Chief Executive, Eric Sorensen, said: "As the population in South Poplar continues to grow, the need for improved health care facilities becomes a priority. The new Centre will not only replace run-down premises but will provide scope for services to expand well into the next century. It will also bring a site within an conservation area back into use."

The new Leader of Tower Hamlets Council, Cllr John Biggs, welcomed the scheme. "This is good news for the people of South Poplar. It is another step towards improving the lives of local people - a policy at the head of the Council's agenda."

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NOTE TO EDITORS

* Finance for the Newby Place Health Centre has come from the following sources:

LDDC (through the Social Accord agreement with Tower Hamlets Council)	£398,000
East London & the City Health Authority	£250,000
City & East London Family & Community Health Services Unit	£180,000
London Implementation Group	£111,000
Private Loan	£311,000
TOTAL	£1.25 million