

10 September 1993

**VETERAN HEALTH VISITOR RE-OPENS REFURBISHED
INNER-CITY HEALTH CLINIC**

Retired health visitor Miss Sprinks paid a return visit to Southwark, south east London, today (Friday, 10 September) to formally re-open the John Dixon Clinic following a major £180,000 refurbishment.

Miss Sprinks joined the Clinic when it first opened in 1962 and was a health visitor there until her retirement ten years later. The Clinic, which is housed on the ground floor of a Council housing block, had not been significantly improved or altered since then. The recent internal and external work has however now transformed facilities to create a modern high quality environment for primary health care professionals and patients.

Efficient tailor-made accommodation has been created for Optimum to provide a wide range of community services, including chiropody, family planning, speech therapy, school nursing, health visiting, dental services and baby clinics. Better use of space has improved security as well as reducing maintenance costs.

The refurbishment was funded on a 50/50 basis by Optimum Health Services and the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC).

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Michael Pickard, LDDC Chairman, said: "The number of people living in this part of London has grown dramatically over the past few years as a result of the redevelopment of the Surrey Docks. Although the John Dixon Clinic falls just outside the Urban Development Area (UDA), it is the only clinic serving residents living within the Docklands area of Bermondsey. The LDDC is therefore particularly pleased to have been able to help improve conditions at the Clinic. Not only does the refurbishment secure a better environment for the provision of health care for local people, but it will also relieve pressure on the other health centres in the area."

Marjorie Jackson, Optimum Health Services' Zone Manager for North Southwark, said: "It has been a great pleasure to work in partnership with the LDDC on this project. The new layout has been designed to provide easier access for patients to all departments within the clinic, as well as improving security. We now have a very welcoming environment from which to provide quality community health care for the local people."

- ENDS -

Further information from:

LDDC Press Office
Thames Quay
191 Marsh Wall
London E14 9TJ

Matilda Hogg
Optimum Health Services
Elizabeth Blackwell House
Wardall's Grove
Avonley Road
London SE14 5ER

Tel: 071-512 0444 (office hours)
071-512 3000 (after hours)

Tel: 071-635 5555

NOTE TO EDITORS

1. The John Dixon Clinic was opened on August 31 1962 by the Mayor of Bermondsey, Cllr Mrs E V Coyle JP. Known then as the John Dixon Maternity & Child Welfare School Treatment Centre, it provided a centralised service for local people, replacing four part-time centres spread across the Borough.
2. When John Dixon died at his home in Jamaica Road in 1930 at the age of 98, after living more than 70 years in Bermondsey, the national press described him as the "Grand Old Man of the medical profession". He was a farmer's son born at Hessle in the West Riding of Yorkshire in 1832. He served as Medical Officer for Bermondsey Vestry from 1875 to 1900 and was also Justice of the Peace, honorary Surgeon to the 10th Surrey Volunteers (Surrey Rifles) and Surgeon at the Surrey Dispensary for 40 years.

Dr Dixon was regarded as a "character" who did not care for the wireless, liked a drink and a smoke - smoking as many as eight cigars a day, even in his nineties - and thoroughly approved of the 1920's flapper girls! He also held that there was no healthier a place in London than Bermondsey.

3. The Surrey Docks UDA area has seen a dramatic rise in population since the LDDC was formed in 1981. At that time, the population was approximately 9,000. It is estimated that there are currently 15,500 people living in the area, with population projections forecasting an increase at an even greater rate to 25,300 by the end of the decade.

This has put pressure on existing health centres, of which the area has three. The John Dixon Clinic, opened in 1962 and in its original state, was poorly laid out and inefficient. Total refurbishment of the premises was crucial in order to optimise use of space and thereby improve services.

4. Optimum Health Services is an NHS Trust providing community health care in Lewisham and Southwark.

2 September 1993

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**VETERAN HEALTH VISITOR RE-OPENS REFURBISHED
INNER CITY HEALTH CLINIC**

DATE: Friday, 10 September 1993
TIME: 12.30pm for 12.45pm
VENUE: John Dixon Clinic
Drummond Road
Southwark
London SE16

Retired health visitor Miss Sprinks pays a return visit to Southwark in south-east London on Friday, 10 September to formally re-open the John Dixon Clinic following a major £180,000 refurbishment.

Miss Sprinks joined the Clinic when it first opened in 1962 and was a health visitor there until her retirement ten years later. Since then no significant improvements or alterations had been made to the centre which is housed on the ground floor of a Council housing block. However, extensive internal and external work has recently transformed facilities at the Clinic, creating a modern high quality environment.

Optimum's health care professionals now have efficient, tailor-made accommodation for a wide range of community services including chiropody, family planning, speech therapy, school nursing, health visiting, dental services and baby clinics.

more/...

The refurbishment was funded jointly by Optimum Health Services and the London Docklands Development Corporation. There will be senior representatives from both organisations at the ceremony.

- ENDS -

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