

2 November 2010

Press Release

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS INVITED TO SEE PLANS FOR NEW CRC LEARNING CENTRE AT ADDENBROOKE'S**

**A £6 million world class training and skills centre to be run by Cambridge Regional College at Addenbrooke's Hospital has been given the planning go-ahead – and now community groups are being invited to get involved.**



An artist's impression of the new Deakin Learning Centre

The Deakin Learning Centre, to be built in the heart of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, will be home to a range of applied learning qualifications for 14 to 19 year-olds, run by the Academy of Care, Health and Early Years at Cambridge Regional College.

It will also be used for community use, and local community groups can put forward their ideas at a two-day consultation event at the College next week.

The ground-breaking initiative is the result of a unique partnership between CRC, Cambridge University Hospitals, and Cambridgeshire County Council, designed to meet the needs of the local community and serve as an example of excellent practice across the eastern region.

The exhibition and consultation event takes place at the College on November 8 and 9, giving schools and community groups an opportunity to view the plans and contribute their ideas to the development.

The Deakin Centre will open in the spring of 2012 with around 150 students scheduled to enrol on a range of courses in the first two years. A range of community activities is also planned, and the College is keen for local groups to get involved at an early stage.

Pam Byrd, head of CRC's Care, Health and Early Years Academy, said: "This is a major new development which will provide an inspiring learning centre for students who want to develop a career in the early years, health and social care sectors.

"Its position, right in the centre of the campus, will also bring considerable benefits to the students. "The centre will also be used for community activities, and we would welcome suggestions from local organisations. We have invited community groups to drop in to see the plans and to contribute ideas for the development of this exceptional project."

The Deakin Learning Centre, named after a former chairman of Addenbrooke's NHS Trust, is being funded by a Government grant delivered through Cambridgeshire County Council.

The exhibition and community consultation sessions take place at CRC on Monday and Tuesday, the 8 and 9 of November, from 11am to 5pm in room C143.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact:

Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager at CRC, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest work-based training contracts in the Eastern Region.