



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

19<sup>th</sup> March 2007

## **UK's FIRST SPECIALIST RESPIRATORY CENTRE OPENS IN ROTHERHAM**

A pioneering centre for people with respiratory disease will be opened next week in Rotherham by a Senior Government Minister.

BreathingSpace is an £12 million national pilot project that will provide the UK's leading, and possibly the world's largest rehabilitation service for people with a form of respiratory disease known as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The funding was obtained for Rotherham through a partnership between the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) and Rotherham Primary Care Trust (PCT) with the support of Rotherham Borough Council.

The official opening of BreathingSpace takes place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 6pm at the new £7 million building, funded by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, on Badsley Moor Lane, Rotherham.

BreathingSpace is a unique pilot project that will provide a radical step change in improving the quality of life for people with COPD, their families and carers. The building acts as a hub for an innovative new model of service delivery providing day and residential rehabilitation. It will provide the largest respiratory rehabilitation programme in the country and the service will rank alongside international leaders in its field by offering bespoke care in a non-medical setting. It will become a national centre of excellence driving up the awareness of COPD and self-management of the condition.

BreathingSpace will offer innovative individually tailored care programmes in a community environment by a specialist team rather than keeping patients in hospitals or isolated at home. It

will promote health and prevention; improve confidence, raise awareness of lung disease and lead research while giving people independence and support.

Dr John Radford, Director of Public Health at Rotherham Primary Care Trust, said: "This facility is putting Rotherham very clearly on the map and establishing us as national leaders in treating COPD. We have an excellent multi-disciplinary clinical team who are experts in their field and will, we are sure, deliver huge improvements and changes in both the health of patients and the way COPD is managed.

"BreathingSpace will be working closely with GPs to ensure all COPD patients in Rotherham are linked in to the service. Anyone who would like to use the service should speak with their GP."

The combination of sustainable textures in this award winning building are believed to make this the most unique public sector building in the country. The design incorporates a number of sustainable principles and technologies, including natural ventilation, geothermal heating, solar hot water, natural cooling systems and breathable walls, which can reduce carbon emissions. The eye-catching three-storey building, designed in a horseshoe shape, is on the site of the former Badsley Moor Lane Hospital. As well as the entire complex fully meeting the needs of people with mobility and disability requirements, a glazed atrium at the heart of the complex will offer a relaxing, welcoming and supportive environment and a focal point for much of the rehabilitation package.

The atrium, restaurant, meeting rooms and exercise suite will all be available for community use and the centre will offer significant local employment and retraining opportunities.

BreathingSpace will offer a range of facilities, rehabilitation and support including:

- individual bedrooms for residential rehabilitation with respite
- accommodation for carers/family - a unique feature;
- a series of half or full day modules making up an eight-week day rehabilitation programme; which will include exercise, education and social support such as benefits advice;
- additional rehabilitation at home and opportunities for people to join peer groups for support;
- a 24-hour helpline, volunteer support groups and a full training programme for patients and carers;

Over 2,000 people a year will use the service, not only former miners or heavy industry workers but people suffering the effects of smoking and others with COPD. It is believed that this is the first purpose built facility for COPD and the largest service in the UK and possibly the world, putting Rotherham very clearly on the international stage for COPD rehabilitation.

**Photo & Interview Opportunity:**

Photographers and reporters are invited to attend the opening ceremony from 4.30pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March.

The speeches and presentations will start at 6pm. Following this at approximately 6.40pm there will be the opportunity for interviews with the Senior Government Minister and other speakers; Peter McNestry, Chair, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Dr John Radford, Director of Public Health, Rotherham Primary Care Trust and Councillor Roger Stone, Leader, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Also in attendance and available for interviews will be Gail South, Nurse Consultant, BreathingSpace and members of the Rotherham Breathe Easy Group who represent patients with COPD and will be users of the facility.

**Members of the press attending the event and wishing to interview the Senior Government Minister must advise Fiona Topliss prior to the event of their attendance.**

**Notes to News Editors:**

1. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT) is an independent charity dedicated to social and economic regeneration of coalfield communities throughout the UK. It is dedicated to the social and economic regeneration of coalfield communities.
2. Since it was established in 1999 the CRT has awarded grants of over £110m to over 2,300 projects that have improved the quality of life in England's coalfields regions. However, The CRT is not just a grant-making body. It also provides advice and support to community and voluntary groups to help them confirm their eligibility for funding, define their needs, create practical solutions, and seek funding from a variety of different sources

3. Respiratory disease is increasingly debilitating, leading sufferers to become more unfit, and requiring the use of oxygen masks and tanks, meaning that they can't go outside or upstairs so they are effectively housebound. Many become 100% dependent on carers and spouses.
4. More people die from respiratory disease than heart disease or cancer and the UK has amongst the highest rates of death from respiratory disease.
5. One in five deaths in South Yorkshire is from respiratory disease.
6. Rotherham PCT was established in April 2002 following the bringing together of primary care services previously provided by the former Rotherham Health Authority and Rotherham Priority Health Trust.
7. Rotherham PCT is responsible for NHS money spent on the population of Rotherham and for steering the work of general practice and directly providing primary care services, such as health visiting, district nursing, physiotherapy, speech therapy, chiropody, occupational therapy and family planning as well as promoting healthy living initiatives.

**For further information please contact Fiona Topliss, Head of Communications, Rotherham Primary Care Trust, Oak House, Moorhead Way, Bramley, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S66 1YY. Tel: 01709 302026 or 07887 512479, fax: 01709 302002 or by e-mail: [fiona.topliss@rotherhampct.nhs.uk](mailto:fiona.topliss@rotherhampct.nhs.uk)**

