

Progress in Practice

Wythenshawe Forum Health Zone

A LIFT scheme to develop a new 'one-stop shop' health facility in South Manchester, which integrates health and social care with education, employment and leisure facilities

Summary

The Forum Health Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) scheme, in Wythenshawe is an expression of 'joined-up' and collaborative health thinking that integrates social, economic and environmental concerns in a deprived area of Manchester. The redevelopment project will site a 'one-stop shop' health facility, Forum Health, at the heart of a Health Zone Development served by a new Metrolink stop.

Forum Health will replace a rundown GP surgery and will house health, social care and therapies all in the same building. Alongside two GP surgeries, it will also incorporate a walk-in centre; facilities to carry out minor operations; a variety of therapies such as speech, physio and occupational; mental health services; dental services; and social services. Furthermore, the South Manchester Healthy Living Network, a tapestry of local health-promoting community groups, will relocate to the building. Meanwhile next door, the Wythenshawe Forum is being redeveloped to include an extended range of services that will make up a series of zones: leisure, health, learning and childcare.

Wythenshawe experiences some of the poorest ill health in Manchester. Ged Devereux, the Principal Programme Manager of the Manchester Joint Health Unit, explains that the Health Zone is part of the wider regeneration project to re-develop the Wythenshawe Forum site: "The concept of the Health Zone is to provide an integrated approach to ...
(Continued overleaf)



"The concept of the Health Zone is to provide an integrated approach to health and social care delivery, with close links to facilities impacting upon the broader determinants of ill health such as employment services, educational services and leisure and recreational facilities."
Ged Devereux, Principal Programme Manager

Links and organisations involved: Manchester Joint Health Unit coordinates efforts to reduce health inequalities (www.manchester.gov.uk/health/jhu/). The South Manchester Healthy Living Network works with communities to help them identify and deal with health problems (www.smhln.net/index.php). For more information on the Manchester, Salford and Trafford (MAST) LIFT scheme go to the website of South Manchester PCT (www.southmanchesterpct.nhs.uk).

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...health and social care delivery, with close links to facilities impacting upon the broader determinants of ill health such as employment services, educational services and leisure and recreational facilities". The scheme promotes and integrates social, environmental and health agendas in several ways. These include:

- **Decreasing the reliance on unsustainable transport:** locating such a range of community services in one area will save journeys from one service to another. The new Metrolink will encourage the use of public transport.
- **Supporting the local economy:** local employment, for example, will be developed initially in front of house. This will then be advanced into ancillary services and beyond. The idea is that "the local pound will be kept in the local economy" as Ged Devereux, the Principal Programme Manager of the Manchester Joint Health Unit explains.
- **Encouraging community ownership:** many community services and organisations will share space within the health zone. This means many of the staff will live and work in the locality. This will develop the idea that the Health Zone belongs to the community. This also has obvious travel benefits.
- **Promoting an 'holistic' approach to health:** GPs can work with, and refer patients to, a whole range of related services.

More generally, the project is supported, and enabled, by the collaborative, 'multi-strand' approach to health adopted by the Manchester Joint Health Unit. Established in 2002, and funded by the three Manchester Primary Care Trusts and Manchester City Council, it recognises that Manchester, one of the most deprived areas in the country, faces enormous health challenges. The main aim of this partnership is therefore to reduce health inequalities and, as such, it recognises the wider determinants of health. It views education, crime, housing, health, transport, culture and employment as important factors affecting general health levels.

The benefits of the scheme include:

- **Decreasing the reliance on unsustainable transport**
- **Supporting the local economy**
- **Encouraging community ownership**
- **Promoting an holistic approach to health**



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