

Friday, March 26th 2010

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Patients set to see the benefit from Outpatient Car Park plans**

PATIENTS from across Lancashire are set to benefit from a new development at Blackpool Victoria Hospital to improve the car parking facilities.

The Outpatient Car Park Scheme is currently in progress and this will mean the creation of spaces, reduction of congestion and a safer environment for pedestrians.

The first phase of the scheme was to provide parking and waiting facilities for ambulances. The next phase, which will start on April 6th, will involve the demolition of the brick building and canopy adjacent to the entrance to Physiotherapy and alongside the main outpatient entrance.

There are many benefits to this scheme and these include the improvements in the environment for patients who are waiting for ambulances, the addition of further car parking spaces, an improved entrance to the Physiotherapy Department and Outpatient Department and some additional drop off spaces.

Sandra Rudd, who is responsible for car parking, said: "The Trust is well aware of the issues surrounding car parking to our patients and that is why we are doing everything we can to appease the situation. In the short term there will be some hopefully minor inconveniences to our patients as we rebuild the Outpatients car park, for which we apologise. In the long term we will be creating more parking spaces and a better environment for our patients.

"Inline with the work that is being carried out, the council will also be doing some road repairs and so we will be putting traffic management in place at the hospital to help the situation. Patients should also be aware that the turn left lane from Whinpark Avenue onto East Park Drive will therefore be closed for a short period."

The second phase will take approximately 10 weeks and during this time access to the Outpatient car park will be limited to ambulances and taxis only. Pedestrian access will be maintained throughout the scheme as will parking in the other two car parks on Whinpark Avenue. Taxis will temporarily decant to the disabled bays outside the entrance to Chest Clinic. Patients should also note that there will be no access into the Physiotherapy entrance although

access through the main Outpatients Department entrance will be maintained throughout the scheme.

Sandra continued: "The Trust would like to apologise for any inconvenience to patients and visitors whilst this work is being undertaken."

If anyone has further queries about the scheme they can ring the Transport Office on 01253 655704.

For further information about this Press Release, please call Heather Eckton, Communications Officer, on 01253 655614 or email [heather.eckton@bfnh.nhs.uk](mailto:heather.eckton@bfnh.nhs.uk)