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Chance to see the new health centre planned at the Alfred Barrow School

Posted on Monday 11th January 2016

People living in Barrow will have the chance to see what is planned for a new £12 million Primary Care Centre on the site of the former Alfred Barrow School.

An exhibition is being held at Forum 28 in Barrow on Friday 15th January and there will be chance to have a look around the old school site itself on Saturday 16th January for ex-pupils or anyone who might be interested.



A planning application for the new centre was submitted last month. It will mean a number of organisations will be working together from one central base.

- 3 GP practices will operate from the site. They will move from Abbey Road Surgery, Atkinson Health Centre and Risedale Surgery.
- A response base for NWAS
- Cumbria CCG
- Community Services (e.g. Community and specialist nursing, mental health, physiotherapy, podiatry, diabetes, retinal screening)
- Integrated Children's Services
- A pharmacy
- Occupational Health services for BAE Systems
- Space for third sector organisations

The centre is being developed through Community Health Partnerships (CHP) Public Private Partnership LIFT Programme, led by eLIFT Cumbria.

Barrow GP Geoff Jolliffe, who is also the clinical chairman of NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We are really excited about the new plans and this is a chance for people to have a look at what we hope to create. We want people to come along and have a look at how we will make health services more accessible and what it could mean for them."

The design will retain the listed building but will also see the development of modern facilities.

There will be an exhibition at Forum 28 on Friday 15th January 2016 between 2pm-6pm where people will be able to view the designs, ask questions and share their views.

It will be followed by an open day at the Alfred Barrow School on Saturday 16th January 2016 between 10am-2pm where accompanied groups will have the chance to see around the old Alfred Barrow School building.

Because the building has been empty all visitors wishing to look around will need to be accompanied. We will do our best to accommodate everyone who wants to take part, but it may mean some people have to wait for a short

while.

The groups will leave on the hour and half hour between 10 and 1.30pm

There are no toilet facilities and no heating on site, and people are advised to wear sensible shoes and dress warmly.

Dr Jolliffe added: “We are really aware of the building’s history and we’ll be working with the Facebook groups so we can keep the community informed of our progress.”

Providing more services in the community is a vital part of the Better Care Together strategy, with organisations integrating to provide more services closer to home. The Alfred Barrow Centre will be a working example of this.

The centre is expected to bring 5,000 metres² of modern ‘fit for purpose’ buildings into the community, replacing old, inefficient facilities. Completion is expected in Autumn 2017.

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