

# Health briefing

Area Panel Four

May 2006

## Welcome to our May Health Briefing

Central and Greater Derby Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) work together to improve the health of people across the city, and make sure the health services they need are available. Their job is to:

- work out what is needed to improve local people's health
- provide some services themselves – such as community services including clinics, district nurses, children's services and health visitors
- buy some services from others – such as larger hospitals and specialist treatments.

The PCTs will be providing a local Health Briefing for each Area Panel meeting.

If you have any questions you can either direct them through the Area Panel Manager – Richard Smail on 01332 258505 or contact us direct:

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## In this issue

In this issue you will find details of:

- patient-led NHS latest
- copying letters to patients
- phlebotomy (blood) clinic.

## Patient-led NHS

The Department of Health has confirmed the following configuration for PCTs in Derbyshire:

- Derby City PCT
- Derbyshire PCT (excluding Glossop).

This will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, but the PCTs will obviously be starting to work towards the change immediately.

The three main functions of a Primary Care Trust have also been confirmed as:

- engaging with its local population to improve health and well-being
- commissioning a comprehensive and equitable range of high quality, responsive and efficient services, within allocated resources, across all service sectors and
- directly providing high quality responsive and efficient services where this gives best-value.

## Copying Letters to Patients

The PCTs are working to implement the 'copying letters to patients' initiative.

'Copying letters to patients' is a national initiative to improve communications between clinicians and their patients. It involves offering patients a copy of items such as referral letters, as a matter of course. This means the patient is better informed and knows what is being written about them in letters to consultants and other health professionals.

We are encouraging all patients to ask for a copy of such letters, if they think it will be helpful.



## Phlebotomy (blood) Clinic

Phlebotomy sessions are being held at Cathedral Road Clinic on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.15am to 1.15pm. We hope these will prove convenient to people as they will not have to travel to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary for this service.

Area Panels are welcome to contact the PCT with questions, or to invite a representative from the PCT to speak at an Area Panel meeting if there is a particular subject of interest to the Panel.

You can contact us at the address overleaf.