

Friday 15 January 2010

**NEWS RELEASE**

**NHS MID ESSEX AND ARKANUM SIGN GROUND-BREAKING SERVICE CONTRACT FOR BRAINTREE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

**For the first time an NHS community healthcare organisation and private healthcare specialists will operate as one team, within a privately managed contract, to deliver services for an NHS funded hospital. This unique approach, led by NHS Mid Essex, is a response to the Department of Health's Transforming Community Services initiative.**

On Tuesday directors of Arkanum signed an innovative contract with the NHS to manage a new type of hospital. Its company, Braintree Clinical Services Limited, has been appointed by NHS Mid Essex to provide clinical and hospital services for the new Braintree Community Hospital. Arkanum is leading a unique partnership between public sector and private healthcare organisations.

Sheila Bremner, NHS Mid Essex Chief Executive said "This is a great result for the local NHS and an important milestone for us. We have selected the best service providers from the local NHS and the independent sector to provide care from the new state-of-the-art community hospital in Braintree."

Arkanum has brought together the following organisations to work together as one team so that patients will experience an unprecedented level of personal care and attention.

- InterHealth Canada – an internationally accredited and leading provider of clinical and non-clinical services.

- Central Essex Community Services – local NHS specialists in community healthcare such as in-patient beds, physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and rehabilitation.
- Prime Diagnostics Limited – a nationally accredited leader in community endoscopy services who have been delivering services within Braintree for the last 10 years.
- Specialist Medical Imaging Ltd – a national accredited diagnostic company offering expertise in x-ray and ultrasound.
- Ashlyns Organics Ltd– a local catering company that specialises in using locally-sourced and organic produce.

Jacqueline Walby, Director of Arkanum said, “The future of healthcare in the UK will be driven by flexibility and innovation and Braintree is fortunate to be at the start of this trend. We are pleased to support the PCT in delivering the step change in quality and capabilities represented by Braintree Community Hospital.”

Clare Morris, Director of Commercial Services at NHS Mid Essex said, “This unique and innovative contract means that the people of mid Essex will have access to high quality services, including community care and hospital operations from their local NHS community hospital. “

“This contract represents excellent value for the NHS.”

Braintree Clinical Services Ltd and its partners are now recruiting staff for the ward, theatre, clinical management, finance and IT. Email [careers.bch@nhs.net](mailto:careers.bch@nhs.net).

**Notes:**

**Arkanum** is a management and development business specialising in the start-up and operation of new services on behalf of the UK public sector. Founded in 2003, Arkanum applies its extensive experience to select best-in-class partners and design and implement systems and processes to deliver improved service solutions in healthcare and other public sector services. The current emphasis is to bring together public sector, private and third sector businesses to provide fully integrated healthcare services in response to the Department of Health Transforming Community Services initiative. The company is based in Cheltenham and has staff and consultants operating across the UK. For more information visit [www.arkanum.co.uk](http://www.arkanum.co.uk).

**Braintree Community Hospital** will open in Spring 2010 in a state-of-the-art new building in the heart of Braintree. It will provide elective day surgery, minor surgery, endoscopy, therapy services, diagnostic imaging, a rapid assessment unit, 20 community beds and a range of day treatments and outpatient services. Nurses and therapists will also provide physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and rehabilitation both at the hospital and in people's homes. Patients attending the new community hospital will be able to have a consultation, undergo diagnostic procedures and receive treatment often on the same day.

**Mid Essex Primary Care Trust** was established in 2006 and commissions health services for people living in Chelmsford, Braintree, Maldon, Witham, Halstead and surrounding areas. We cover an area of approximately 400 square miles and serve over 370,000 people. The PCT oversees:

- 217 GPs based in 50 practices
- 54 pharmacists
- 120 dentists (49 surgeries) and 48 opticians

In September 2008 *Mid Essex PCT* changed its name to NHS Mid Essex. Still legally known as *Mid Essex PCT*, our new identity reflects the repositioning of PCTs as the local leaders of the NHS. The new identity format was subject to national consultation and gave all PCTs the option to choose to present themselves in a way which more fully reflects their position as local leaders of the NHS.

**For media enquiries and further information please contact:**

Jane Lucken, Marketing and Media Relations, Arkanum

Tel: 0791 449 2986

Email: [jane.lucken@arkanum.co.uk](mailto:jane.lucken@arkanum.co.uk)

Job enquiries to [careers.bch@nhs.net](mailto:careers.bch@nhs.net)

Photos available on request

[www.arkanum.co.uk](http://www.arkanum.co.uk)