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Cambridge University Health Partners to create Regional Innovation and Education Cluster (RIEC)

Cambridge University Health Partners (CUHP) has joined forces with a group of regional innovation and education specialists to create a broad alliance to improve health services across the East of England.

Anglia Ruskin University, the PHG Foundation, Cambridgeshire Community Services, ERBI and Health Enterprise East have become regional associates with the existing partners in CUHP, the University of Cambridge, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust. The group was successful in a nationwide competition organised by the Department of Health, to identify clusters of organisations which could pool their expertise to accelerate improvements in health and social care. These organisations, collectively known as Health Innovation and Education Clusters (HIECs) will be set up in 17 centres around the country.

The Cambridgeshire group will focus its attention on bringing technological and educational innovation to the service of people with long-term medical conditions and to improving end-of-life care. The organisation, known currently as CUHP:RIEC will act as an engine to drive innovation in the education of the health and social care workforce, together with process and product innovations that will yield health and economic gain for the people of the East of England.

The Director of Cambridge University Health Partners, Professor Patrick Sissons, said "I am delighted that we have been able to involve such a broad range of regional expertise alongside our new partnership. Our involvement in this initiative demonstrates our commitment to supporting NHS East of England in the provision of knowledge-based improvements in care for the people of our region."

Stephen Davies, Chief Operating Officer of CUHP and the co-ordinator of the HIEC application said "When we formed CUHP as a new organisation earlier in the year we said that we would be dedicated to biomedical research, education of the NHS workforce, innovation in patient care and contributing to the knowledge based economy of our region. CUHP:RIEC is the first major new initiative which will take that vision forward and is evidence of the solidarity of our core partners and associates in working together for a strategic purpose."

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Notes for Editors:

For information about the HIEC initiative and the national picture please see the DH press release which may be found here:

http://www.mmc.nhs.uk/news_events/latest_news/health_innovation_education_cl.aspx

For information about HIECs in the East of England and the regional picture please see the NHS East of England press release which may be found here:

http://www.eoe.nhs.uk/news.php?area_id=9&id=231

Cambridge University Health Partners is one of the five national Academic Health Science Centres designated by the Department of Health in January 2009. www.cuhp.org.uk

Anglia Ruskin University, based in Cambridge and Chelmsford, is a major regional provider of education for the health and social care workforce. www.aru.ac.uk

The PHG Foundation is an independent, international, non-profit-making organisation working to achieve the responsible and evidence-based application of biomedical science for health. www.phgfoundation.org

Cambridgeshire Community Services provides a range of community based health and social care services for children and adults living predominantly in Cambridgeshire and, to a lesser extent, across the East of England. <http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/>

ERBI is a not-for-profit membership organisation for international life science and healthcare companies based in Cambridge. <http://www.erbi.co.uk/>

Health Enterprise East is the Innovation Hub for Healthcare in the East of England. It provides a broad range of professional IP management services to the 40 NHS Trusts across the East of England. <http://www.hee.org.uk/>