Your Community Your Health, a new health information service being developed in the areas of Pilton and Muirhouse in Edinburgh, is set to launch on Tuesday 17 May 2011.

The project, which aims to provide local people with easily accessible information in relation to their health and wellbeing, will be accessed via a web-based system with face-to-face support from trained staff at health information points in local communities. These will be set up initially in three community venues: Muirhouse Library, Pilton Community Health Project and Craigroyston Health Centre.

The project is a partnership between NHS Lothian, City of Edinburgh Council Library and Information Services, NHS Inform, NHS Education Scotland (NES) and the Pilton Community Health Project.

Bob Anderson, Chair of the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership, NHS Lothian, said: “This is an excellent initiative and the first of its kind in Edinburgh. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to know what health resources are available and how they can access them easily. Having this information at the heart of the community will do just that and I am sure will be welcomed by local people.”

Councillor Deidre Brock, Culture and Leisure Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “Libraries are increasingly becoming real community hubs, connecting local people to a mine of useful information about their area. These health information points will be a hugely valuable tool for people to find out about the services available to them.”
Irene Garden, Chair, Pilton Community Health Project Board, said “We are delighted to be working with our partners in the NHS and the Council to deliver this essential service. Our volunteers are ready to let people know what health services are available to them and how to live healthier lives.”

The project, which has been developed in response to local community needs, will help increase access to health information in order to tackle health inequalities and improve health.

Arlene Campbell, NHS 24’s National Partnership Manager said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with this excellent community project. NHS inform offers a broad range of quality assured health information to people and importantly has strong links with local community groups and partnerships such as this one. We look forward to continuing to work with this project to ensure that people in these communities can access good quality information when they need it."

Ann Wales, Programme Director for Knowledge Management, NHS Education for Scotland said: “Your Community, Your Health shows that health information and information skills together are community assets that help transform the dynamic between people who provide health services and the people who use them. NHS Education Knowledge Services are delighted to be providing the information skills training which will help NHS, local authority and voluntary sector staff to share information with people in the Pilton community, empowering them to take more control over their health and wellbeing.”

Ends
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Notes to editor

The launch will take place at Muirhouse Library, 15 Pennywell Court, Edinburgh EH4 4TZ at 10.45am. Bob Anderson, Chair of Edinburgh CHP and Councillor Cairns will cut a ribbon. Parents and children will be given information about SMILE week and children will be singing at the launch.

Pilton Community Health Project works to tackle health inequalities in the Greater Pilton area. It provides services that help people live healthier lives and develop strategies to overcome barriers to good health. It uses a social model of health and a community development approach in all its work. www.pchp.org.uk

NHS Inform is a new national health information service providing a co-ordinated approach and a single source of quality assured health information for the public in Scotland.

Keep up to date with the latest news and events from Edinburgh City Libraries by following our blog at http://talesofonecity.wordpress.com/ or visit the virtual library at http://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/e-resources. It couldn’t be easier to join the library: pop into any library with a proof of ID (this is needed if you plan to use computers or borrow ebooks, audio books, CDs or DVDs. All the info on joining can be found here: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/454/library_membership_and_joining/371/library_membership.