

# HEALTH FACILITIES AT FOOTBALL GROUNDS

Football clubs are often seen as focal points for local communities. As the NHS is embarking on a major investment in building new facilities, football stadia offer an opportunity to locate health facilities within the community.

## Leyton Orient

Leyton Orient FC is in discussions to provide space to its PCT as part of the West Stand redevelopment. The PCT area will have a separate entrance and will incorporate a treatment centre as well as two GP practices.

## Salford Sports Village

The Sports Village is a multi-partnership involving local PCTs and The FA, linking a major new multi-sports facility with two new health centres. Other services, such as Sure Start, the Government's programme to deliver the best start in life for every child, will also be located nearby to encourage children and parents to become involved.

## Promoting blood pressure testing

In order to raise awareness among men of the risks of high blood pressure, a number of clubs have promoted the Blood Pressure Association's National Blood Pressure Testing Week, with clubs including Manchester City and Newcastle United locating pressure stations in their stadia. Leading players such as Ryan Giggs and John Terry have also backed the campaign.

## Manchester City

Working in partnership with the local PCT and Health Action Zone, the club provides a number of rooms in the stadium to house health projects for the local community, for example a GP referral programme. Manchester City has also developed a walking programme at the ground and facilitated a mobile breast screening service at the stadium. A drop-in health centre is currently being planned at the City of Manchester Stadium.

## Brentford

Bees United, the Brentford FC Supporters' Trust, is developing plans for a new community stadium for the club in west London. The Trust is working with Brentford FC and the Community Action Network to ensure that the new stadium will also house a 'one-stop' health centre. The centre will be leased by Hounslow PCT and will include facilities for general practitioners, specialist nurses, two nurse practitioners, dentists, health visitors, district nurses and complementary therapists.



