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**Media Release                                                                                                                               10 June 2013**

**Somerset Medical Centre invests £10m in state of the art facilities supported by Barclays**

After 10 years of planning, the ambitious new Frome Health Centre at Enos Way, Frome, officially opened last week, having invested £10.28m to create a new state of the art primary care centre, supported by Barclays.

Frome Medical Practice has moved two of its existing surgeries from Park Road and Berkley Road to the new site, and Beckington Family Practice has also relocated their Fromefield surgery to Enos Way.

The new building is 4,500 m2 and completes the Health Park alongside Frome Community Hospital. The Medical Centre offers a wide range of health related services and its aim is to bring health care delivery closer to home. The services on offer are a pharmacy, opticians providing acute eye care services, mental health services for adults and the elderly and a healthy living café.

Local providers such as the Royal United Hospital and Shepton Mallet Treatment Centre have moved Outpatients clinics to the medical centre so patients can be seen closer to home and the consultants can have a closer relationship with the patients’ GP. Private chiropractic, physiotherapy, plastic surgery, cosmetic and complementary health services are also available in the building.

Dr Tina Merry, Senior Partner from Frome Medical Practice, said: “We are delighted to see the official opening of the medical centre after many years of planning. We believe this is a unique facility being situated alongside the Community Hospital  and combining primary care with both secondary care, community based, complementary and private services under one roof.”

Julian Kilsby, Barclays Healthcare Relationship Director, added: “Barclays has supported a number of GP schemes across the region recently, demonstrating our appetite within the healthcare sector to support projects which bring real benefits to the local community and local economy. Barclays is committed to using our industry expertise and specialists to support such propositions, which enable medical centres such as this to expand and invest for future prosperity and the welfare of local patients.”

Interserve Construction Limited completed the centre in January 2013.

**ENDS**