

## COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES

### Summary

The Committee will receive an update on the continuing developments in relation to Community Diagnostic Centres across the Tees Valley footprint.

### Detail

1. Back in October 2021, the Government announced its intention to open 40 new Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-community-diagnostic-centres-launching-across-england>). The purpose of these centres was to aid:
  - earlier diagnoses for patients through easier, faster, and more direct access to the full range of diagnostic tests needed to understand patients' symptoms including breathlessness, cancer, ophthalmology.
  - a reduction in hospital visits which will help to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
  - a reduction in waits by diverting patients away from hospitals, allowing them to treat urgent patients, while the community diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog.
  - a contribution to the NHS's net zero ambitions by providing multiple tests at one visit, reducing the number of patient journeys and helping to cut carbon emissions and air pollution.
2. Since this initial press release, further commitments have seen the growth of this provision across the country. From a sub-regional perspective, the CDC offer has been operational across the Tees Valley footprint in Darlington, Hartlepool and Redcar.
3. More recently, at the start of 2023, the Government approved a new CDC in Stockton-on-Tees which was to be located on the site of the redeveloped Castlegate shopping centre and would be up-and-running by winter 2023 (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-diagnostic-centre-in-stockton-on-tees-to-deliver-hundreds-of-thousands-of-checks-scans-and-tests-a-year-for-local-residents>).
4. An update on the Tees Valley CDC offer was intended for the last Committee meeting in March 2023, but had to be deferred due to unforeseen circumstances. Representatives from the Tees Valley Community Diagnostics Programme are scheduled to attend this meeting alongside relevant NHS Trust personnel. A presentation has been prepared in advance – see **Appendix 1**.

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