

# Tees Valley Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC)

APPENDIX 3



**Michael Houghton**  
(Programme SRO)

**Jayne Pailor**  
(CDC Implementation  
Lead)

**19 September 2024**

# Context

---

**The Sir Mike Richard's report which was published in 2020** concluded that a new diagnostics model is urgently needed, with the CDCs to play a key role in reducing access time and time delays associated with hospital visits and supporting reductions in health inequalities.

**Adopting a Hub & Spoke Site Model, a central Hub is to be built on Castlegate Campus, Stockton (due to open late Autumn 2024), with Spoke Sites developed at;**

- Hartlepool Hospital (already operating)
- Friarage Hospital (already operating)
- Redcar Primary Care Hospital (due for completion January 2025)

**The aim for the CDC Hub and Spoke Sites is to:**

- Improve Population Health Outcomes
- Increase diagnostic capacity
- Improving productivity and efficiency of diagnostic activity
- Contributing to reducing health inequalities
- Delivering a better, more personalised, diagnostic experience for patients, supporting integration of care across primary, secondary and community care

**The objectives for the above will be measured by monitoring activity through increased capacity and volume through the build of the CDC in the next 5 years and beyond. The aims and objectives of the CDC are to:**

- Reduce waiting times by 20% from current average waiting times
- Reduce average patient travel time to hub/spokes by 25% from current average travel times
- Patients have greater choice about appointment times and locations compared to the current model
- Improve patient satisfaction scores by 20% for diagnostics in Tees Valley compared to pre-CDC.
- Survey CDC patients on a yearly basis to further improve the patient experience at the CDC hub and spokes

# The Hub Expectations

---

The new Hub located on Stockton high street will be able to deliver up to 104,000 potential lifesaving tests annually when fully operational providing diagnostic testing for the following:

- MRI scans
- CT scans
- Ultrasound scans
- Cardiology (Electrocardiogram (ECG) / Echocardiology / Blood Pressure)
- X-rays
- Blood tests
- Respiratory tests

Staff from North Tees & South Tees Hospital Trusts will work collaboratively alongside each other in the CDC hub to treat patients across the Tees Valley. The Hospital base and staff management will remain the same for staff with the expectation of rotation to the hub when required to meet the needs of the service.

Digital interoperability is one of the key enablers to this project, ensuring staff can work with all systems that will be used in the Hub, with training and SOPs to be provided as necessary.

Workforce is the other key enabler and also a key risk to the success of the project.

**Tees Valley  
Community Diagnostics Centre  
(Stockton Hub)  
Artists Impression**





- Following on from a special ground-breaking ceremony to mark the first spade in the ground in the building, work has continued to develop and push forward at pace. Monthly site visits started in July enabling staff who will be working in the CDC Hub the opportunity to take a closer look at the premises. These site visits will continue until the Programme is complete (with the next one due to be held in September)

**Tees Valley  
Community Diagnostics Centre  
Progress Pictures  
(as of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024)**



# Comms & Engagement Plan 24/25

---

- Hoardings are in place and feedback has been positive
- Regular social media and press releases are circulated on both Trusts social media page
- Ensure that patients are engaged in the development of the CDC services
- To keep the population informed about how they will access the services (transport links, parking facilities etc.)
- Use the CDC as a showcase to help attract people into the healthcare professions
- Diagnostics to be delivered as standard to encourage aspirant population health.
- Website needs further development – but is up and running:  
<https://www.nth.nhs.uk/services/tees-valley-diagnostic-centre/>
- Stockton Borough Council have included mentions in their staff briefings and we have appeared in their update on a recent business newsletter about the whole Waterfront development

# Workforce Plans for 23/24 & 24/25

- Recruitment and workforce education and training are being implemented in line with plans.
- Responses to recruitment adverts is positive for a number of roles.
- Opportunities for existing staff to train and develop into roles.
- Collaboration with Teesside University, Newcastle University and Further Education Colleges.

Department	Roles	Band	Total WTE	Update
Cardiology	Echocardiographer	Band 7	3.6	1 recruited. 1 in training
	Trainee Echo	Band 5	1	Recruited
	Clinic Support Worker	Band 2	2.2	out to advert
	Cardiographer Asst	Band 3	1.2	1WTE recruited
	Physiologist	Band 5	1.2	
	Admin Assistant	Band 2	1.2	Out to advert
Respiratory	Assistant Practitioner - Respiratory	Band 6	2.4	1 in training
	Clinical Support Worker	Band 2	2.4	recruited / blended role as below
	Apprentice Lung Physiologist	Band 5	2	1 recruited
	Lung Physiologist	Band 5	2	Blended role as alternative workforce
	Admin Assistant	Band 2	2.4	out to advert
Radiology	Radiographer - X Ray	Band 5	1.2	Recruited
	Radiographer - X Ray	Band 6	1.2	Recruited
	Radiographer - MRI	Band 6	4.8	Out to Advert
	Health Care Assistant - Radiology – MRI	Band 3	2.4	Interview being scheduled
	Radiographer – CT	Band 6	7.2	shortlisting
	Health Care Assistant – CT	Band 3	3.6	recruiting
	Sonographer – Ultrasound	Band 7	4.8	3 recruited, 2 in training
	Health Care Assistant – Ultrasound	Band 2	4.8	Recruiting
	Admin Assistant	Band 2	6	Out to advert
Sleep	Healthcare Science Assistant	Band 3	2	Recruiting / blended role as above
Phlebotomy	Phlebotomist	Band 3	2	Recruited



# Activity – 24/25 expectation

---

The attached shows the total number of tests we are planning to deliver in the first year from go-live in each area

Investigation	Total
Plain Film X-Ray	3810
Ultrasound (NOUS) without Contrast	4720
CT with Contrast	2700
CT without Contrast	300
MRI with Contrast	508
MRI without Contrast	3302
Full lung function tests	726
Ambulatory BP monitoring	83
12 lead ECG	232
Trans Thoracic Echocardiogram	1838
Ambulatory Electrocardiography	502
Sleep Studies	1716
Spirometry	208

# Key Milestones

---

- Progress on site continues to develop at pace, air handling equipment has been delivered, ventilation duct installation and mechanical pipework to the plant room is ongoing as is the first fix electrical containment partition walls on the ground and first floor
- The equipment list (C-sheets) have been worked through thoroughly with clinical teams in readiness for ordering, with procurement providing a detailed version inclusive of supplier, size, description, product code and lead times for each item.
- IT systems are ordered, with colleagues holding regular meetings to ensure that the functional capability of systems of both North and South Tees systems will be built onto each computer. This will provide extra assurance that all patients referred from anywhere in Teesside will receive the same level of service whilst attending the Hub.
- Commissioning and testing of diagnostic equipment and operational systems is planned in as part of the facility handover process and the facility nears completion.

**Work in the Hub is due to be complete in readiness for opening late Autumn 2024 - whilst this work is ongoing, a number of diagnostic tests are currently being delivered from Lawson Street to help with activity and patient accessibility until the opening of the hub.**

# Pathway Work

---

Initial meetings were held several months ago between programme management and clinical colleagues to discuss and agree ways that the CDC can support reviewing and developing pathways which are already established in the Foundation Trusts.

We have liaised with both North and South Tees Cancer Services teams to obtain and analyse data to see where we can support with diagnostic capacity in the Hub.

Workshops were held with clinical teams on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September, where current pathways will be discussed in detail to understand each element of the patient pathway, and where best we support improvements (if needed).

The aim and benefit to doing this is:

- Offering more opportunities for non-urgent diagnostics within the hub,
  - This frees up time for services to focus on urgent patients and pathways
- Tackling areas of Population Health Management through discussions and intervention,
  - Providing opportunities for delivering clinics from the hub will support services reducing long wait times
- Discussing high pressure areas in the Acute Trusts to look at opportunities to support,
- Meeting with business intelligence and Cancer Service colleagues to understand the current waiting list times:
  - Understanding these figures helps services address underlying causes of delay, helping to reduce these times at source

Questions?