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Community Diagnostic Centres Thurrock

Agenda Item 8

Background

- Community Diagnostics Centres are a nationally funded programme to increase diagnostic capacity.
- New one-stop shops for checks, tests and scans in the heart of local communities will make services more accessible and convenient for patients.

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An engagement survey has been completed in May and June, with hundreds of residents from across mid and south Essex giving their views on what is important to them in terms of location and generally the facilities on offer at the CDC. Feedback from these surveys helped us to develop our plans across MSE.

- National funding is now in place for our first Centre in Thurrock. The ambition is to also have centres in Mid Essex, Basildon and Southend too. We are expecting a decision on the funding for the Thurrock site very soon.

Important messages

- Community Diagnostic Centres will help us deliver new ways of working, so we can provide earlier diagnosis through easier, faster and more direct access to the full range of diagnostic tests. This will improve health outcomes
- By separating elective and emergency care, we hope these centres will reduce waits by diverting patients away from our hospitals and allowing staff to treat patients, while community diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog.

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Important messages

For our communities

- Community Diagnostic Centres will offer a range of tests to help you find out what's wrong / or not. And it will be closer to where you live.
- The new centres will lead to a reduction in waits by providing community diagnostic hubs to focus on tackling the backlog
- GPs will be able to refer patients to a centre so they can access life-saving checks closer to home and be diagnosed for a range of conditions. This should be more convenient and means you are less likely to have a cancelled test. For example, some people may have to go to hospital for a scan and then find themselves having to wait as a result of an urgent care patient needing to be prioritised.



A Thurrock CDC

- The Centre will be based at the Thurrock Community Hospital, therefore becoming part of the Grays IMWC
- It will enhance the offer for residents enabling clinics to have more on-site diagnostic facilities than previously planned
- The X Ray and Ultrasound at Orsett will move into the CDC. One X-ray machine will stay at Orsett Hospital while we build the new Urgent Treatment Centre on Grays IMWC site
- This reaffirms our agreement to re-provide services from Orsett Hospital in Thurrock.



Staffing the CDC

- Like many parts of the country, our challenge will be recruiting the additional staff needed for the Centre so we are starting to look at staffing plans now
- Recent success with international recruitment will be part of our plan, alongside training programmes to introduce new roles into the Centres
- We know some services will be harder to recruit than others i.e. there is a shortage of sonographers (who operate Ultrasound scanning) nationally – If we find ourselves struggling to fill these roles, we'll work with a local community providers to build in extra resilience
- Further employment opportunities – Anchor programme and supporting local employment.



What services will CDC offer?

X-Ray

MRI

CT

Ultrasound

Blood Tests

Heart and
Lung Tests

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Timeline for Thurrock

- October 2022 – National funding agreed
- November to February 2023 – Planning application process with Thurrock Council
- Spring 2023 – Works expected to start
- Early 2024 – Centre to open

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Excellent



Compassionate



Respectful