

Pathology services Community Diagnostic Centres

Briefing to Thurrock Council Health and Wellbeing
Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Single pathology service operating model



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Background

- Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust currently has differing models of pathology service provision across our hospitals
- Pathology First, a commercial joint venture between the Trust and Synlab, was established in 2014 and provides pathology services in Basildon and Southend
- We have an in-house laboratory service at Broomfield Hospital
- Since the Trust's merger in 2020 we have sought to align these two service models better, but there are limits compared to full-service consolidation.

A single pathology service model

- The Trust has made a commitment to establish a single integrated pathology service model across our hospitals. This is consistent with national policy from NHS England
- This follows recommendations drawn from research by Lifecycle, a specialist independent management consultancy, with key clinical stakeholders
- Having a single service will support our wider Integrated Care System by offering:
 - Better value for money
 - A more joined-up service that benefits patient experience
 - Simplification of the model across mid and south Essex.
- This will not change where patients access tests, and there will continue to be a variety of pathology services in the community and acute hospitals.

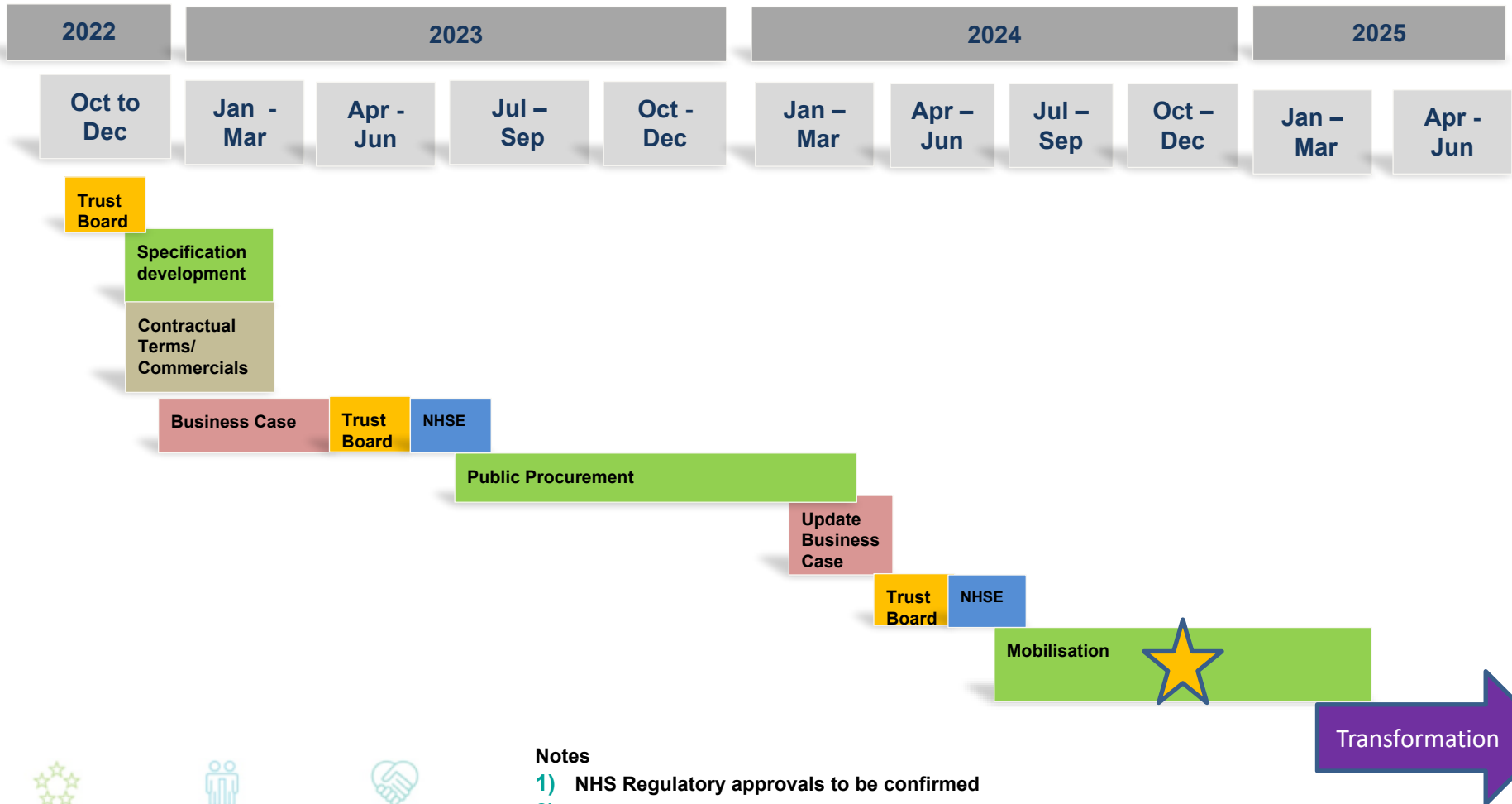
Stakeholder engagement

- We are now engaging with stakeholders, including:
 - Clinical teams at our Trust
 - The ICS
 - Primary care and community providers
 - Patient representatives including the three Healthwatch organisations.
- We also have shared a survey at phlebotomy clinics for service users
- We are keen to ensure staff are supported during this period and we hope they continue to support the service in this new operating model
- The risks of staffing losses, increased staff turnover and its potential impact on service performance have been identified, and mitigations put in place
- These include arranging staff-side conversations, regular briefing sessions with affected staff, and the opportunity to shape the new pathology service.

Next steps

- We intend to take a full business case to our Trust Board for approval by late Spring. If approved, this then enables the launch of a competitive market engagement process in June 2023, with the aim of completing this by spring 2024. We then aim to move to a new integrated service by the end of 2024.

Future Programme Dates



Notes

- 1) NHS Regulatory approvals to be confirmed
- 2) New Public Procurement Regulations, flexibilities to be confirmed

Get in touch

There is a dedicated contact email for all questions related to the pathology service specification and developments:

mse.pathology2024@nhs.net



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Community Diagnostic Centres – mid and south Essex



Background and public engagement

- Community Diagnostics Centres (CDCs) are a nationally funded programme to increase diagnostic capacity. They are new one-stop shops for checks, tests and scans in the heart of local communities and will make services more accessible and convenient for patients
- We have received funding approval for a Thurrock CDC to be based at Thurrock Community Hospital
- Since, we have held four public engagement events, two on 18 January at Headon Hall in Stifford Clays, and further engagement on 20 February and 2 March at Orsett Hospital to share information on the new centre and receive feedback on our plans. We had face-to-face conversations with over 100 people, supported by Healthwatch Thurrock.
- We surveyed Thurrock residents in-person, the large majority told us they would appreciate more appointment times, to keep the telephone booking and app/online options for booking tests and to speed up wait times for appointments. Most residents (75%) said they travelled to appointments by car. Healthwatch Thurrock have been supporting our outreach and promoting our online survey, which closed on 5 March.



Our mid and south Essex CDCs

- There are business cases now developed for three CDCs in mid and south Essex
- Alongside the **Thurrock** CDC, a centre in **Braintree** has also been approved
- Our third business case is for the largest CDC which is planned for **Pitsea**. We are awaiting a funding decision from NHS England. If approved this will have the capacity to support residents across all of south Essex. This is particularly important as it will have an community endoscopy unit which will be the closest community endoscopy facility for Thurrock residents.



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What Thurrock CDC will offer

X-ray

MRI

CT

Ultrasound

Blood tests

Heart and
lung tests

Appointments will
be offered seven
days per week
and for some
services run from
8am – 8pm



Where Thurrock CDC will go



The Centre will be built where the Alistair Farquharson building is currently. A planning application was submitted in January and a decision is expected for late April.

Where Thurrock CDC will go



Thank you – any questions?



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