

Report of the Chief Operating Officer to the meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee to be held on 24 November 2022

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**Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY DIAGNOSTIC PROVISION IN
BRADFORD DISTRICT AND CRAVEN**

**Summary statement: This paper provides members with a briefing on
the intentions for community diagnostic services in Bradford District
and Craven including confirmed funding and future intentions.**

Portfolio:

Healthy People and Places

Report Contact: Helen Farmer
Phone: (01274) 237704
E-mail: Helen.Farmer@bradford.nhs.uk

1. Summary

This report provides committee members with an overview of the intention of health partners to develop community diagnostic services in Bradford District and Craven.

2. Background

Bradford District and Craven Health and Care Partnership have recently been successful in the approval of their business case to develop a community diagnostic centre (CDC) in Eccleshill. The CDC will be staffed and managed by Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and will be located in the current Eccleshill treatment centre which previously housed diagnostic facilities prior to the decommissioning of the previous provider in 2014. The remaining space in the centre is occupied by an independent sector provider.

Community diagnostic centres are a national initiative and funding has been secured for a range of schemes across the country from a central budget until 24/25. The budget will provide the capital to purchase equipment and develop the building, and will also provide the funding for the workforce.

3. Report issues

Professor Sir Mike Richards' independent review of NHS diagnostic services, published in October 2020, 'Diagnostics: Recovery and Renewal', sets out the case for increasing diagnostic capacity in England and for a new model of diagnostic service provision. One of the key recommendations of the report is for the rapid establishment of Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs).

It was envisioned that CDCs would provide a broad range of elective diagnostic services away from acute facilities, providing easier and quicker access to tests and at greater convenience to patients, as well as relieving pressure on acute sites by reducing footfall and increasing diagnostic capacity.

The subsequent strategic ambitions for NHS diagnostic services are to deliver services that provide the right tests, at the right time, in the right place for patients, and have sufficient capacity to meet growing demand ensuring equality of access, reduction in health inequalities, and highly professional services.

The West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT) commissioned Attain, an independent consultancy, to undertake feasibility studies across West Yorkshire and they worked with health partners to outline our intentions in February 2022 where we agreed 3 main priorities for BD&C:

- **Demand:** provide access to diagnostics based on assumption that the demand for specific diagnostic tests will continue to increase.
- **Health Inequalities:** provide access to the population in deprived areas of Bradford District and Craven.
- **Pathways:** provide diagnostic testing capacity and test bundles for Pathways that are in high demand or have increasing waiting times.

The provision of a diagnostic hub in Bradford District and Craven will ensure our patients have access to a range of additional diagnostic tests in community settings, in particular Eccleshill being one of our more deprived communities. We have used a range of NHS and independent sector provision to support us during Covid-19 and as part of our elective recovery, which has ensured we have been able to continue to provide timely elective care to our population. However, performance against our 6-week diagnostic standard requires improvement (currently 85%) and our communities still face difficulties in accessing our services, either due to confidence or being unable to access services at a convenient time or location for their personal circumstances (unmet need). Redeveloping the service in the vacant space at Eccleshill has meant we can do this at pace and more cost effectively than building a new centre.

Initial discussions have taken place at the site with contractors, and it is anticipated work would commence in Q4 22/23 with some services available in March 23 and the remainder in Q1 23/24. Nationally, there is a set minimum requirement on the services that must be provided in Eccleshill CDC (Table A) and although not all services will start at the same time, they will be phased over a 3-6 month period and in place during 23/24.

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Imaging | CT (incl CT colonography) MRI Ultrasound Plain X-Ray |
| Physiological Measurement | Echocardiography (ECHO) Electrocardiogram (ECG) Oximetry Blood Pressure Monitoring Spirometry FeNo and Lung Function Tests Blood Gas Analysis Simple Field Tests (eg six min walk) |
| Pathology | Phlebotomy Point of Care Testing Simple Biopsies NT-Pro BNP Urine testing |

Table A: Minimum CDC Requirements

There will also be a range of pathways developed to support earlier diagnosis of cancer alongside our Rapid Diagnostic Clinics (RDC) which provide access to diagnostics for people with vague but concerning symptoms that may be due to cancer. We also intend to work in partnership with Westcliffe Health Innovations (the independent sector provider who occupy the remainder of the Eccleshill treatment centre) who provide endoscopy services so patients can access a full range of diagnostics to support their endoscopy procedures.

The Eccleshill site already houses a GP practice, the Meadows Unit (oncology and haematology unit), community MSK services, out of hours primary care and there are voluntary sector providers in close proximity to the site. This provides a great opportunity to provide holistic “one stop” care to patients accessing these services.

We are also currently writing a further business case to develop “spoke” provision which will be additional diagnostic capacity but on a smaller scale. For example it might not have a CT or MRI scanner but will have X-Ray/Ultrasound and some other tests such as sleep studies and lung function tests. We plan to develop a spoke in Keighley and one close to the city centre of Bradford, and we are currently looking at the best locations for these based on site availability and access to provision in our communities.

A decision will be made on these in December 22/January 23 and as with all current capital schemes, there is a risk this funding could become unavailable.

4. Options

Not applicable

5. Contribution to corporate priorities

Not applicable

6. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the development of the Eccleshill Community Diagnostic Hub and future intentions regarding “spoke” provision across the district.

Members are asked to receive a future report on the provision of services in the Hub in January 2024.

7. Background documents

[Professor Sir Mike Richards’ review of NHS diagnostics capacity.](#)

8. Not for publication documents

None

9. Appendices

None