

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 5th July 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Lucy Gardner, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, WHH

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Halton & Warrington Community Diagnostic Centre

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide the Halton Health & Wellbeing Board with an update on Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's (The Trust) plan for the provision of a Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) in Halton.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board notes the content of the report and supports the Trust's plan for the development of the CDC at its Halton site.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In 2020, NHS England commissioned an independent review of NHS diagnostics capacity as part of the NHS Long Term Plan. The resulting report, Diagnostics: Recovery and Renewal, recommended the need for a new diagnostics model, where more diagnostic facilities are created in free standing locations away from main acute hospital sites.

3.2 These diagnostic facilities would provide significant additional diagnostic capacity, quicker and easier access to a range of tests on the same day to support earlier diagnosis, greater patient experience and the drive to reduce health inequalities.

3.3 At the end of 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it was making significant funding available for the creation of Community Diagnostic Centres (CDC) and invited applications for funding from NHS Trusts. The Trust was subsequently successful in its bid to secure an allocation of new capital and revenue funding to develop a CDC on the Halton site.

3.4 The Warrington and Halton Community Diagnostic Centre will create an enhanced range of diagnostic services for the populations of Warrington and Halton with additional capacity to service demand from across the wider Cheshire and Merseyside region. The plan will be delivered in three phases:

3.4.1 **Phase 1: Fast Track Community Diagnostic Centre**

Repurposing of existing space in the Nightingale building (former Halton General hospital) to create clinical rooms for the provision of additional capacity in Respiratory, Ultrasound and Phlebotomy (blood-testing) services.

The Phlebotomy service of the CDC became operational in May 2023 and has delivered services to over 400 patients since then. The Ultrasound and Respiratory services of the CDC will commence clinical activity from the 19th of June.

3.4.2 **Phase 2: Community Diagnostic Centre in Halton Health Hub (Runcorn Shopping City).**

Utilisation of vacant space at the Trust's Halton Health Hub to create clinical rooms to deliver additional Audiology, Sleep Studies, Ultrasound and Phlebotomy activity. It is planned to be operational in late November 2023.

3.4.3 **Phase 3: New Build Community Diagnostic Centre at the Trust's Halton site.**

Development of a new build large-scale CDC as an extension to the existing Captain Sir Tom Moore (former Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre) building on the Halton hospital site.

The new CDC will accommodate diagnostic services, including MRI and CT imaging.

Design work on the new facility has commenced, and it is anticipated that it will be fully operational in June 2024.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The capital and revenue implications associated with the creation of the CDC (both phases) are covered via the central programme funding.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

No direct implications other than general improved access to diagnostic services to support early identification of disease and conditions.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The CDC development will create a range of new employment opportunities within Halton. These will range from construction industry roles during the initial development to a number of clinical and non-clinical opportunities once the construction phase is complete and the services are operational.

The Trust's appointed design and build contractor Kier Construction has its North West Head Office located in Speke, just 10 miles from Halton and has committed to the following:

- 75% targeted spend in local economy (within 30 miles)
- 4 full time employment opportunities for local people
- 16 weeks work experience
- 5 new apprentices - Kier Degree & supply chain
- 120 apprenticeship weeks
- 40 hours careers advice delivered
- 40 hours education engagement activities

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Trust CDC scheme will support improvements in population health outcomes across Halton and Warrington, through the creation of increased diagnostic capacity to support earlier diagnosis of conditions. It will also significantly improve access to diagnostic services in one of the most deprived areas of Cheshire and Merseyside to help address a number of stark health inequalities that are visible within the local population.

Additional benefits of the CDC would see the creation of new opportunities to improve productivity, efficiency and overall patient experience through the co-location of multiple diagnostic services. More patients could be seen via a "one stop shop" approach.

Furthermore, the development of the CDC will create new opportunities to greater integrate primary, community and secondary care. The Trust will work with local health and care partners to explore how the CDC can benefit wider stakeholders in terms of the development of new clinical pathways.

Ultimately, the creation of the CDC on the Halton site will help to tackle the issue of healthcare inequalities by embedding diagnostic services deeper into the community to facilitate earlier, faster and more accurate diagnosis of health conditions such as cardiac or respiratory disease or cancer.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The development of the CDC in Halton will support the modernisation of the Halton hospital site in Halton Lea. It is also an important first step towards the

longer-term redevelopment of the site in line with the site masterplan drawn up back in 2018 as part of the work around the Halton Healthy New Town concept.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Trust is now working closely with Kier Construction to ensure the planned design and construction is in line with the funding envelope agreed with NHS England. The aim is to agree a “Guaranteed Maximum Price” for the project that falls within the financial constraints as early as possible in the design process and therefore fully mitigates any financial risk.

7.2 Due to challenges in the labour market across health services at present, there is a risk around the availability of workforce in some clinical services and therefore a risk to the Trust’s ability to recruit essential staff to deliver the services planned. In order to mitigate this risk, the Trust has set out a medium to long-term plan to recruit a number of key roles as early as possible and train them up internally over a number of months/years.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Trust has carried out an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the CDC scheme which showed that the development will have only positive impact on the local population and on people with the nine protected characteristics. The EIA will be continually reviewed and updated throughout the life-course of the project.

8.2 Members of the public and “experts by experience” for certain clinical services will be invited to review, feedback and advise on the development of the plans and designs for the new build CDC as the project progresses. This should help ensure that the needs of users are met in full and their views considered from the early stages.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.