

Community Diagnostic Centres Q&A:

- **What's the rationale for opening Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs)?**

The principle behind this national initiative is to create 'one stop shops' across the country, away from hospitals, so that patients can receive lifesaving checks close to their homes.

By separating elective diagnostics from urgent work, we can reduce waits and cancellations, ensuring patients get better quality services.

- **Who is 'we'? Who is behind this project?**

This is a real partnership effort, involving pretty much every organisation linked to the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin (STW) Integrated Care System.

It includes public health colleagues from Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council, as well as diagnostics providers including Shropshire Community Health, The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) and The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RJAH). It also involves colleagues from STW Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

- **So is this about saving money?**

Absolutely not!

Indeed, there will need to be significant investment to deliver the programme of CDCs that we envisage. We are delighted to say that we have already secured funding of more than £6 million to begin a pilot project in Hadley Park or Hortonwood, in Telford.

- **That's a lot of money. Where is it coming from?**

We have been successful in a bid to NHS England and NHS Improvement. We have been awarded £4 million for capital costs associated with the pilot, and more than £2.1 million for revenue costs.

- **Why Telford for the pilot?**

Telford has been identified as an area where demand for diagnostic services are amongst the greatest in STW, and where health inequalities are amongst the most severe.

It should be noted that the Telford site will serve our population across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, giving all the opportunity to benefit from more timely elective diagnostic treatment.

- **So where else could we see CDCs in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin?**

We want to talk to people about this and understand what they would like to see. Our ambition is to see services provided in all corners of STW. This could mean a new CDC in

the south of Shropshire (maybe in Ludlow), one in the north (in Whitchurch or Oswestry) and one in the county town of Shrewsbury.

- **How soon will these open?**

The Community Diagnostic Centre programme covers a period of up to five years.

- **What will be in these centres?**

We want these centres to be real 'one-stop shops' for health services, providing not just diagnostic scans but other vital services as well. We want our communities to help us shape this vision. Early on, we ran a programme of engagement to ask people what they like about diagnostic services in STW, what could be better and how we could make the most of the proposed centres.

We already have a clear picture of what people can expect to see in the centre in terms of diagnostic services. This falls into three areas:

1. **Imaging:** CT, MRI, Ultrasound and Plain X-ray / DEXA (an imaging test to measure bone density).
2. **Physiological measurement:** Electrocardiogram (ECG), including 24 hour and longer tape recordings of heart rhythm, monitoring, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, echocardiography (ECHO), oximetry, spirometry including reversibility testing for inhaled bronchodilators, Fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), exhaled carbon monoxide, full lung function tests, blood gas analysis via Point of Care Testing (POCT).
3. **Pathology:** phlebotomy, Point of Care Testing, simple biopsies, NT Pro BNP (a blood test used to detect heart failure), urine testing and D dimer testing (a blood test to rule out a serious blood clot).
4. **Endoscopy:** used to investigate unusual symptoms, to perform certain types of surgery or to carry out biopsies (removing a small sample of tissue for analysis).

Our proposal is that the centre is developed **alongside the planned community renal dialysis unit**, identified as one of the 'Big ticket Items' by our ICS.

- **What is the imaging pod at the RSH that I've heard about?**

As part of our pilot project proposal, we committed to an 'early adopter' imaging pod on the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. This is a standalone unit close to the Copthorne Building, which will provide elective diagnostics only, while urgent scanning continues inside the hospital. This pod will provide CT and MRI scans.

It will run for 12 hours a day and allow for the RSH to increase its capacity by up to 336 patients a week.