

# Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

## 24 April 2025

### Community Diagnostics

#### Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

#### 1 Purpose

- 1.1 To scrutinise the work being done to open a new community-based facility in the city designed to increase access to diagnostics services and address a waiting list backlog for diagnostic testing appointments.

#### 2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked:

- 1) to make any comments or recommendations in response to the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board's (ICB's) report on the development of a new Community Diagnostics Centre in the city and the current diagnostics services provision in place; and
- 2) to consider whether any further scrutiny of the issue is required (and, if so, to identify the focus and timescales).

#### 3 Background information

- 3.1 In 2019, Professor Sir Mike Richards was commissioned to undertake a review of diagnostics capacity in the NHS. He ultimately recommended that more diagnostics facilities should be located away from main hospital sites, such as on high streets and in retail locations, to provide quicker and easier access to a range of tests on the same day. This would support earlier diagnosis, greater convenience to patients and a reduction in health inequalities. As a result, new Community Diagnostics Centres (CDCs) have been developed to:
- increase and optimise diagnostic capacity in the longer term through the separation of acute and elective diagnostic provision – providing benefits in terms of efficiency and quicker access to testing and improved convenience for patients;
  - improve patient experience of the diagnostic process and facilitate earlier diagnosis of a range of conditions, providing a suite of tests in one day in a single location where possible;
  - be located to improve access for more deprived populations with higher levels of health inequalities and health needs; and
  - protect diagnostics capacity from any future pandemics by minimising risks of transmission between patients, visitors and staff during the diagnostic process, largely through the separation of acute and elective capacity.

- 3.2 The NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care System (ICS) secured £50 million in capital funding to build two CDCs within its area, with one to be established in Mansfield and one within Nottingham as part of the Broad Marsh redevelopment. It was initially intended that the city centre CDC would open in Spring 2025, but construction is now due to begin shortly for it to become operational during Summer 2026 – to deliver approximately 150,000 tests each year once fully open. The CDC will provide a full range of diagnostic tests, with the site located so as to be accessible to the most deprived communities, being within a short walking distance of bus stops, the train station and tram stops.
- 3.3 The Covid-19 pandemic had a substantial impact on diagnostic services in terms of reducing capacity and throughput, leading to a large increase in waiting times and backlogs. The combination of reduced activity and growth in demand from both elective and emergency services led to significant increases in waiting times and backlog waits. This peaked in March 2022, but significant progress has been achieved since to reduce these waiting times and backlogs. As of January 2025, the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH) has been able to see 71% of diagnostics patients within 6 weeks, with the number of patients waiting over 6 weeks being 5,520 – with 654 waiting for over 13 weeks. In parallel to the new CDC being constructed to further increase capacity, NUH will also deliver an additional 24,500 diagnostics tests from the Platform One practice, using national CDC Accelerator funding.
- 3.4 The complexity of the CDC site (including the existence of asbestos and the requirement to undertake an ecological survey) has meant that a longer design and evaluation period was needed than was originally anticipated. As a result, the ICB and NUH are working with Homes England (as the new landlord for the site) to agree the technical design in advance of starting construction work. The timely staffing of the CDC may also present challenges due to a national shortage of specialist roles, so nine appointments have been made to CDC positions already, split between the current delivery of diagnostics services at temporary locations and some early recruitment of the ‘difficult to recruit’ roles.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Report: Nottingham Broad Marsh Community Diagnostic Centre

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 [Diagnosics: Recovery and Renewal - Report of the Independent Review of Diagnostic Services for NHS England](#)

## **7 Wards affected**

7.1 All

## **8 Contact information**

8.1 Adrian Mann, Scrutiny and Audit Support Officer  
[adrian.mann@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:adrian.mann@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)