

NEL Community Diagnostic Centre Update

Health in Hackney Scrutiny Meeting

2nd February 2023

Summary

Several options for additional North East London Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) sites are still under consideration to be presented to the ICB/NHSE for approval. These are:

1. A spoke site at St George's community hospital, Havering
2. A CDC site at Lower Clapton, Hackney
3. A CDC at King George's Hospital

Funding is being sought centrally and a decision is expected in mid to late February 2023.

Context

There is a need for an increase in diagnostic capacity to improve accessibility to core diagnostics nationally. There is a national programme taking place to develop Community Diagnostic Centre and hubs to tackle the demand for diagnostic services in England as demand has risen at a greater rate than increases in diagnostic capacity. Year on year there has been an increase in demand for diagnostic services, especially for CT and MRI diagnostic tests.

Two CDCs have already been approved in North East London and are in the process of being commissioned – one at Mile End hospital and one at Barking community hospital. A further NEL CDC is being considered.

Hackney

A CDC outline business case for Hackney was approved by Homerton on 7th October 2022. This was submitted to NEL outlining the position on the risks involved and potential actions if they were to be realised.

The NEL CDC programme board agreed a scoring system that looks at various metrics with the 6 criteria listed below:

1. Catchment (Proximity to other CDC sites)
2. Estates (Type of site i.e., community or acute)
3. Accessibility (Transport accessibility rating – known as PTAL rating)
4. Deliverability (Timeframe for site ownership and construction)
5. Financial (Estimated cost)
6. Strategic Alignment (Aligns with CDC programme's aims and objectives)

Following the initial assessment the Hackney option, which would be based at Lower Clapton, was scored within the top 7 community and acute sites along with St. Georges Hospital, Hornchurch (SGH) and several independent sector community sites within Havering, Redbridge and Waltham Forest, and King Georges Hospital (KGH).

Further scoring was then applied for the criteria which put Lower Clapton and St George's Hospital as the preferred options for the next CDC sites within NEL. KGH was initially discounted due to being collocated on an acute site.

SGH space is limited so that would only constitute a spoke service as it would not have capacity for a full CDC.

The NEL paper was discussed with NHS providers in December 2022. Each considered the case and scoring was put forward for each site. After further discussion it was agreed that KGH would be added and included as an option.

Options

Following on-going discussions at various levels, the 4 options below were presented and agreed to be considered:

- I. A spoke sites at St. Georges Hospital

- II. A site at Lower Clapton Health Centre in Hackney**
- III. A diagnostic hub at KGH**
- IV. 2 independent sector spokes in shopping centres**

Discussions and decision around allowing further CDCs on acute sites has yet to be confirmed and previously NHSE have indicated they would not support further CDCs being built on acute sites.

NEL have indicated that a decision should be made by late February 2023 and a short form business case will need to be submitted thereafter. If agreed some initial funds would be released in April 2023.

Funding

Any bid is contingent on funding being sufficient. This is not currently the case and further central funding is being sought. The NEL CDC team are expecting to be able to access central CDC funding that has not been allocated in order to increase this envelope significantly.

There is a central commitment also to provide additional revenue funding to the successful provider to support the delivery of services in any new CDC.