

Question 1

From Cllr Elliot Moss on behalf of Mrs Proctor

Could you tell me when the above is due to reopen. I have used it several times over the years with good outcomes I am old enough to remember John Reid now Lord Reid I believe opening it .

I find it strange that such a facility remains closed after jabs are available at pharmacies In the meantime could you tell me which walk-in centres in the Bury area are operational Many thanks Patricia

Answer 2

The Walk In Centre at Prestwich was suspended at the start of the Covid pandemic in 2020 to accommodate the Covid Management Service – an important response to the rapid escalation of the pandemic. Since 2021 the Walk In Centre accommodation has been used as a base for the Vaccination Service for Prestwich and the south of the borough.

The Northern Care Alliance who are responsible for the provision of the Walk In Centre in Prestwich are working to understand the steps necessary to re-establish the service, and are doing so in the context of a substantially different context to the provision of the urgent care system in the borough in the nearly 3 years since its suspension.

Considerations include the availability of workforce , reflections and evaluation on the effect of the transition of the Moorgate WIC to the front end of Fairfield General, and the changing nature of demand for health and care including higher levels of acutely unwell patients. There is also a different landscape of provision – including for example access to community pharmacists for advice and guidance, enhanced primary care based services, and access to 111 and digital access to primary care.

Northern Care alliance are also reflecting on national guidance that requires a full review of any provision that was temporarily suspended during the pandemic, and also the policy direction of promoting bookable access rather than walk in access to patients.

In developing the proposals of the next phase of provision in Prestwich there are other opportunities to bring additional services to be available for local residents– notably the provision of additional lower level diagnostic testing (e.g. phlebotomy, spirometry, and some lower-level cardiac diagnostics), and a potential test of change model of support for frail older residents.

Finally the provision of the WIC needs to be considered in the context of the tremendous opportunity of the wider regeneration of Prestwich town Centre.

Northern Care Alliance are working with all health and care system partners to explore all aspects of the above and will develop a proposal with residents of Prestwich for discussion in due course.