

Question 1

Cllr Kevin Peel

Can the Cabinet Member update members on progress with our NHS partners in developing a new Diagnostic Hub in Bury?

NCA have opened their first in Oldham, others are progressing. We seem to be at the bottom of the list. I wonder whether we might take steps to push it forward a bit faster. And why not use the former walk-in centre that now sits half empty I understand.

This is critical to ease pressure on Fairfield and GPs.

Answer 1

The improved diagnostic capacity and availability is recognised to be an important element of NHS recovery arrangements.

The Northern Care Alliance (NCA) is developing Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) Hubs in Oldham and Salford, with the Oldham Hub serving patients from the Northeast Sector, including Bury. Bury patients will also be able to access the Salford Hub where more convenient. The Oldham Hub was launched in December 2022 and the Salford Hub will launch in summer 2023.

In addition to the Hubs, the NCA is working with Bury to establish Spoke sites off the main CDC Hubs. This model will ensure the locality has access in the community to routine diagnostic tests (e.g. phlebotomy, spirometry, and some lower-level cardiac diagnostics). Non-routine or more complex diagnostics are being delivered via the purpose-built CDC Hubs (e.g., MRI scans, blood gases, endoscopy). It is a national requirement for spoke sites to offer a major imaging modality -for the Bury sites this will be ultrasound scans (non-obstetric).

A task Group made up of key stakeholders from across Bury is working with NCA colleagues to complete a business case for submission in February 2023 to secure funding from NHSE as part of the national CDC programme. The current plan informed by analysis on disease prevalence from Public Health is to develop two spoke sites giving access to routine low-level diagnostics close to home - a spoke in Radcliffe will have a cardiorespiratory focus and a spoke in Prestwich with a frailty focus. The current site of the currently suspended WIC in Prestwich is being assessed as a potential spoke.

As a borough Bury is also using the opportunity to explore bringing Dexa scan provision into the locality as Bury patients currently must travel outside of the borough to access these tests. The CDC Hub and Spoke Model represents one element of the current diagnostic offer in Bury – creating further access to diagnostics in the community, alongside other primary care, community, and secondary care-based diagnostics already in operation across the borough.