

40 community diagnostic centres launching across England

Millions of patients will benefit from earlier diagnostic tests closer to home thanks to 40 new community diagnostic centres set to open across England in a range of settings from local shopping centres to football stadiums.

The new one-stop-shops for checks, scans and tests will be backed by a £350 million investment from government to provide around 2.8 million scans in the first full year of operation.

The centres will help to achieve:

- earlier diagnoses for patients through easier, faster, and more direct access to the full range of diagnostic tests needed to understand patients' symptoms including breathlessness, cancer, ophthalmology
- a reduction in hospital visits which will help to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission
- a reduction in waits by diverting patients away from hospitals, allowing them to treat urgent patients, while the community diagnostic centres focus on tackling the backlog
- a contribution to the NHS's net zero ambitions by providing multiple tests at one visit, reducing the number of patient journeys and helping to cut carbon emissions and air pollution

GPs will be able to refer patients to a centre so they can access life-saving checks closer to home and be diagnosed for a range of conditions, rather than travelling to hospital. This will be more convenient for patients, more efficient and more resilient to the risk of cancelled tests in hospitals due to COVID-19. The centres will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of staff including nurses and radiographers and are open 7 days a week.

All cancer services are back to or above pre-pandemic levels with almost half a million people checked for cancer in June and July – among the highest numbers on record – while more than 50,000 people started treatment for cancer in the same period, a 32% increase on the same period last year. The centres will continue to further level up access to vital cancer tests and other tests to tackle the backlogs that have built up during the pandemic.

The new centres are being rolled out in a host of accessible settings, including:

- the Glass Works in Barnsley – the new centre will be part of the town centre redevelopment with access to 670 parking spaces and will deliver ultrasound, X-ray, breast screening, phlebotomy and bone density scans
- Falmer Community Stadium, home of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club – this will be one of 4 centres across the region serving a population of 1.7 million. The centres will provide additional MRI, CT, ultrasound and X-ray services
- a Community Diagnostic Village in a repurposed retail outlet in Poole – it will bring together primary, community and secondary care as well as local health support teams to serve the population of Dorset, particularly those in areas of known deprivation

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, said:

Tackling waiting lists will require new and more innovative ways of delivering the services people need. That is why we're making it easier and more convenient to get checked.

Our new community diagnostic centres will bring those crucial tests closer to home including in the communities that need them most. They will help enable earlier diagnosis, allowing us to catch cancer and other issues as quickly as possible, and save more lives.

Amanda Pritchard, NHS chief executive, said:

Rapid diagnosis will save lives and these one stop shops for checks, scans and tests in the heart of local communities will not only make services more accessible and convenient for patients but they will also help us to improve outcomes for patients with cancer and other serious conditions, ultimately sparing more patients and families the pain and trauma of disease.

NHS staff have continued to provide routine care, throughout the pandemic, alongside treating around 450,000 seriously ill COVID patients in hospital, and the roll-out of these community diagnostic centres will help us to spot problems sooner, when they are easier to treat.

Professor Sir Mike Richards, the first NHS national cancer director who recommended the changes, said:

The pandemic brought into sharper focus the need to overhaul the way we deliver diagnostic services and so I am absolutely delighted

to see one of the key recommendations of my report becoming a reality for patients so quickly. I have no doubt that many people will benefit from these new NHS community diagnostic centres, bringing together many tests in one convenient place.

The centres will begin providing services over the next 6 months, with some already up and running, and will be fully operational by March 2022.

The centres are one of the recommendations from Professor Sir Mike Richards, the first NHS national cancer director, who conducted a review of diagnostic services as part of the NHS Long Term Plan, published last year.

The government recently announced an extra £5.4 billion to the NHS to respond to COVID-19 over the next 6 months, taking total extra COVID-19 funding to health and care services to over £34 billion this year alone. It builds on the new Health and Social Care Levy, which will see funding rise by a record £36 billion over the next 3 years.

This is on top of a further £36 billion for health and social care across the UK thanks to the Health and Care Levy, which will include £8 billion ring-fenced to tackle backlogs and help the NHS deliver an extra 9 million checks, scans and operations for patients across the country from 2022 onwards.

Location	Community diagnostic centre	Region
Clacton	Clacton and District Hospital	East of England
New QEII Hospital (Hertfordshire and West Essex)	New QEII Hospital Welwyn Garden City	East of England
Leicester	Leicester General Hospital	East Midlands
Joined Up Derbyshire	Florence Nightingale Community Hospital Ilkeston Community Hospital Whitworth Hospital	East Midlands
Finchley Memorial Hospital	Finchley Memorial Hospital	London
Queen Mary's Hospital (South West London)	Queen Mary's Hospital	London
Mile End Hospital	Mile End Hospital	London
Barking Community Hospital	Barking Community Hospital	London
Tees Valley	Lawson Street Health Centre	North East
Blaydon	Blaydon Urgent Treatment Centre, Gateshead	North East
Central ICP (Cumbria and North East)	South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS FT	North East

Location	Community diagnostic centre	Region
North Tyneside	North Tyneside General Hospital	North East
Penrith	Penrith Hospital	North West
Cheshire and Merseyside	Victoria Infirmary Northwich	North West
	Liverpool Women's Hospital Ellesmere Port	
Lancashire South Cumbria	Rossendale Preston Healthport	North West
Manchester and Trafford	Withington Hospital	North West
Northern Care Alliance – Oldham	Royal Oldham Hospital	North West
Bolton	Bolton NHS FT	North West
Buckinghamshire Oxford and Berkshire West (BOB)	West Berkshire Community Hospital	South East
	Amersham Hospital Oxford Business Park Gemini One.	
Frimley	Frimley Park Hospital	South East
St Mary's Community Hospital (Portsmouth)	St Mary's Portsmouth	South East
HIOW Southampton and SW Hampshire	Royal South Hants Hospital	South East
	Lymington New Forest Hospital	
Surrey Heartlands	Milford Community Hospital	South East
	Woking Community Hospital East Surrey	
CDH Poole Dorset Health Village	Beales Poole	South West
Buckland Community Hospital	Buckland Hospital	South East
Sussex Health	Falmer Community Stadium	South East
	Shorelands Hospital Bexhill Hospital	
CIOS Bodmin (Cornwall/Isles of Scilly)	Bodmin	South West
Devon Exeter Nightingale	NHS Nightingale Exeter	South West
BSW BaNES Locality (Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire)	Sulis Hospital	South West
Gloucestershire Quayside	Commercial Offices	South West
Somerset	Rutherford's Diagnostics	South West
	Somerset Community Somerset West Somerset Ophthalmology	
Kidderminster Treatment Centre (Herefordshire/Worcestershire)	Kidderminster Hospital and Treatment Centre	West Midlands

Location	Community diagnostic centre	Region
Coventry and Warwickshire	Warwickshire North Coventry City South Warwickshire	West Midlands
Washwood Heath (Birmingham and Solihull)	Washwood Heath Urgent Care Centre	West Midlands
Telford	Hollinswood House	West Midlands
Corbett	Corbett Hospital	West Midlands
Kings Mill	King's Mill Hospital, Mansfield	East Midlands
Montagu Hospital (South Yorkshire)	Montagu Hospital, Mexborough	Yorkshire and Humber
Barnsley Glassworks	Barnsley Glassworks Shopping Centre	Yorkshire and Humber
Grantham	Grantham and District Hospital	East Midlands
Humber Coast and Vale	Hull University Hospital	Yorkshire and Humber
Wood Green, London	The Mall, Wood Green Shopping Centre	London