

# Barking Community Diagnostic Centre

Barking and Dagenham Health  
Scrutiny Committee, 29 November 2023

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# Community Diagnostic Centres (CDC)

CDCs are part of a national roll out to provide more diagnostic services (including checks, scans and tests) **away from acute hospitals**. While reducing pressure on hospitals, they also help to provide quicker access to tests, reduce inequalities and improve health outcomes.

## Why Barking Community Hospital (BCH)?

The demand for diagnostic services continues to rise, with waiting lists increasing from an average of 6 to 11 days in 2016, to 9 to 22 days in 2022.

BCH was chosen to help us meet growing demand and reduce health inequalities in the borough which doesn't have an acute hospital.

A significant increase in population is expected in the borough over the next 20 to 30 years and the change in demographics will contribute to a 21% rise in the demand for services.

It is also easily accessible by bus, tube and other transport networks.



# The journey so far

- Engagement with Patient Advisory Group and Healthwatch colleagues (**July 2021 to date**)
- Site boosted with additional scanners and x-ray machines (**September 2022**)
- Planning permission approved (**February 2023**)
- Work to build the facility began off-site to minimise disruption (**April**)
- NHS Providers case study on our CDC (**May**)
- Professor Sir Mike Richards visits (**June**)
- Staff visit the factory to see the facility being built off-site (**July**)
- Foundation work began on-site (**August**)
- CDC craned into place on site (**October**)
- National Director of Diagnostics visits (**October**)



# Creating a centre for patients, by patients

We invested a lot of time in engaging with local residents, patients, Healthwatch colleagues and patient partners to ensure the centre meets the needs of our local communities - for example how we could make the CDC more comfortable and accessible, how we could improve patient experience, making appointments more convenient and so on

As a result of their feedback:

- ✓ Patients will receive free parking
- ✓ Calm pastel and pale colours throughout to make it more relaxing for all patients
- ✓ Floor to ceiling windows
- ✓ Ramps, lifts and accessible changing rooms run throughout, and all patient services are on the ground floor
- ✓ Landscaped outdoor space
- ✓ Increasing ways to book appointments
- ✓ Staff to be trained on how to communicate with all patients
- ✓ Continuous improvement of care and experience gathered through patient and staff survey before and after the CDC opens





# What the CDC will bring

- An **extra 72,000 scans a year**
- The CDC will house scanning equipment such as MRI, CT, and ultrasound alongside consultation rooms for a range of other tests
- Suitable waiting, changing and other public facilities, such as hearing induction loops, a landscaped outside space, and an accredited Changing Places facility – the third across our sites
- Local job opportunities
- Tests that will help patients with some cancer types get their diagnosis earlier
- New and innovative tests/pathways including cystosponge, colon capsules, and Transnasal endoscopy
- Rapid asynchronous triage clinic for oral lesions



# What's next?

- Work to continue ahead of the CDC's opening in spring 2024
- Ongoing engagement with stakeholders, patients and staff
- Working with Healthwatch on accessible information standards training
- Site visits for staff and stakeholders
- A trial run with a patient to understand the experience from their view
- An official opening
- St George's CDC (Hornchurch) embedded in the St George's Health and Wellbeing Hub



# Future vision



Robotic Centre



Health and Wellbeing



Elective Hub



Cancer Centre



**BHR ELECTIVE VILLAGE**



CDC



Training Academy



Pre-Assessment



OPD

