

Media release



EMBARGOED: THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY

New 'one stop shop' for NHS testing brings care closer to home for Purley residents

Residents in the south of the borough now have easier access to essential health services thanks to the opening of a brand new Community Diagnostic Centre at Purley War Memorial Hospital.

The expansion of these NHS services comes as a result of a significant investment in the local health system, and promises to make vital tests and screenings more readily available within the community.

As a result, patients living in the area who have been referred for diagnostic testing such as x-rays, CT scans, cardiology and respiratory screening can now access care even closer to home.

Matthew Kershaw, Chief Executive at Croydon Health Services NHS Trust and the borough's Place-Based Leader for Health said:

"This is another fantastic step forward as we continue to work to improve the care we provide to Croydon residents.

"As well as fast-tracking access to vital tests, such as x-rays, CT scans and cardiology screening to help detect serious illness sooner, a diagnostic centre in Purley will help to prevent the worsening of existing health issues and ensure our patients receive the care they need as quickly as possible, in a place that suits them."

A second community diagnostic centre, based in New Addington, is set to open in early 2025, completing the £14 million expansion of community services, forming part of a network of almost 40 in community locations across the country.

The launch of these centres are the latest in a number of initiatives designed to improve to health services across Croydon. Last month (December 2023), the Trust's new, state of the art intensive care unit opened its doors to some of the borough's most seriously ill and injured patients.

ENDS

Stakeholder update

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New 'one stop shop' for NHS testing brings care closer to home for Purley residents

Dear X,

I am writing to update you following the launch of the Trust's newest Community Diagnostic Centre, based at Purley War Memorial Hospital.

Going forwards, residents in the south of the borough who have been referred for diagnostic testing will now have easier access to essential health services such as x-rays, CT scans, cardiology and respiratory screening

As well as helping detect serious illness sooner and continuing our work to reduce the number of people waiting for elective care post-pandemic, this diagnostic centre will help patients to better manage their condition, prevent the worsening of existing health issues and ensure all patients receive the care they need as quickly as possible, in a place that suits them.

Alongside an expansion of existing x-ray and CT scanning services, which will support the early identification of serious illnesses such as cancer and heart disease, the NHS will now offer additional services in the community setting, including:

- Respiratory screening including asthma and COPD testing and clinics
- Echocardiography
- Ambulatory ECG Monitoring
- Blood pressure monitoring

These additions will not only benefit individual patients but also the wider health and care system, preventing the worsening of existing health issues through faster diagnosis and earlier treatment whilst improving patient experience by reducing the need for residents to travel for essential tests.

A second community diagnostic centre, based in New Addington, is set to open in early 2025, completing the £14 million expansion of community services, forming part of a network of almost 40 in community locations across the country.

The opening of this centre is another fantastic step forward as we continue to work to improve the care we provide to Croydon residents and we will continue to provide updates on our activity in Purley and as work progresses in New Addington.

Thank you for your continued support.

Matthew Kershaw

Chief Executive and Place-Based Leader for Health