



CDC Newsletter: October–November 2023

Upcoming recruitment event for Harpurhey CDC

Ahead of the opening of our new Community Diagnostic Centre in Harpurhey in November, we are holding a recruitment event to fill a number of positions.

The event is taking place at the Harpurhey Neighbourhood Project on **Friday 20th October from 9am-3pm**, and we'll be recruiting for:

- Trainee Community Diagnostics Care Navigator (*3 full-time and 1 part-time roles*)
- Trainee Healthcare Scientist Diagnostic Assistant (*8 full-time roles*)

The event is split into a morning session and an evening session, if you'd like to attend please ensure you fill out a booking form by [clicking here](#).

For more information such as job descriptions and what you need to bring on the day, please [click here](#).

CDC Programme Team attend Annual Members' Meeting

The CDC Programme Team were delighted to be invited to this year's MFT Annual Members' Meeting on Wednesday 20th September.

The theme for this year's Meeting was '*Your Health Matters*'.

Alison Allcutt, Head of Programmes and Louise Rutter, Community Engagement Lead took the opportunity to share the positive work the CDC are doing with members, staff and the general public.

The pair spoke about how the CDC Programme is working with Equalities Fund recipients to reduce health inequalities in Greater Manchester and shared the plans for the North Manchester CDC Spoke in Harpurhey.





Community Engagement: Fresh Start Smart

We recently spent an informative afternoon with Fresh Start Smart at Wythenshawe Forum Library.

The local community group explained the barriers they experience when accessing care and shared ideas on how CDCs could support in tackling these barriers.

Fresh Start Smart run a series of projects designed to support those most in need – to find out more you can visit www.freshstartsmart.co.uk or email info@freshstartsmart.co.uk

Thank you to Rona and the team for making us feel so welcome and providing great feedback!



Community Engagement: ACCG

The CDC Equalities Fund have funded a project with the African and Caribbean Care Group (ACCG), who provide high quality health and social care support services for older people of African and Caribbean heritage in Manchester.

The project, which aims to raise awareness of the CDC amongst the African and Caribbean community, has included:

- Info stalls, community engagement meetings and workshops at an ACCG open day attended by 80 people
- Virtual interviews with local radio stations to raise awareness of the CDC/ACCG



- The distribution of CDC material and service updates on ACCG social media channels



Community Engagement: Breakthrough UK

Breakthrough UK are another Equalities Fund recipient who have been supporting the CDC Programme. They have held a number of meetings to inform their members about our CDCs and gather feedback on how we can tweak our services to better address the needs of disabled people.

Breakthrough have also supported us to develop our communications to ensure they are suitable for various disabled groups. These resources will be available on our [resource page](#) once complete. Thanks, Breakthrough, for your support!

CDC Harpurhey – join our information meeting!

Join us on Thursday 16th November at 1pm for our Virtual webinar to hear about our plans for our upcoming Community Diagnostic Centre in Harpurhey, opening soon.

The meeting is being held on Microsoft Teams. You can join on the day by [clicking here](#).





CDC Frequently Asked Questions

Where are MFT's Community Diagnostic Centres (CDC) located?

Withington Community Hospital (WCH) is MFT's Hub for the CDC model. A new centre located to the rear of WCH is due to open in January 2025 and will include Colonoscopy, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy and Gastroscopy, cardiology and respiratory testing space.

Harpurhey - In December 2023 the North Manchester CDC Spoke Site will open its doors - this will be located in the North City Family & Fitness Centre, Harpurhey.

Currently some additional diagnostic activity at **Trafford General Hospital (TGH)** as an interim measure whilst our Hub and Spoke are being mobilised.

How do I get an appointment for one of the Diagnostic Tests?

When the GP refers a patient for a diagnostic test under the care of MFT the test could be delivered in any of the MFT site locations, including the CDCs listed above.

Patients will be offered an appointment to attend a service at the most appropriate location for them, however it is entirely possible that patient may not realise that the appointment they are attending is classed as CDC activity.

A spotlight on Ophthalmology

About Ophthalmology

Ophthalmology is the busiest specialty in the NHS, carrying out more than 500,000 operations and 7.5 million outpatient appointments every year.

Core ophthalmology services are provided by Manchester Royal Eye Hospital across Greater Manchester, however the introduction of **community diagnostic clinics has enabled more patients to be seen and treated effectively**. The CDC Ophthalmology service offer timely screening and more treatment options, helping to protect people's vision for longer. Optical Coherence Tomography tests are used to determine general eye health and predict future issues, and the team also complete diabetic eye screening – a test to check for eye problems caused by diabetes. You can find out more about diabetic eye screening [here](#).

Meet some of the Ophthalmology team

Our ophthalmology clinics are run by experienced administration and clinical staff. Amongst these are our Ophthalmic Science Practitioners (OSPs), who manage the day-to-day services. They're responsible for carrying out the various diagnostic procedures required to screen for and monitor diabetic eye disease, glaucoma and medical retinal disease.





Pamela Sherriff (left) and Rabia Rafiq (right) are both recently appointed OSPs and work at the community diagnostic clinics, which run seven days a week at Trafford General Hospital and five days a week at Withington.

Pamela said: **“I enjoy working at the community diagnostic clinics, they provide our patients with a great service closer to home, making access to healthcare easier and more convenient for all.”**

The Ophthalmology team will be the first service delivering ophthalmology appointments at the new CDC in Harpurhey when it opens in December, and they look forward to welcoming patients at the new site!

How our Care Navigators are supporting

The CDC Care Navigators have been working with the department over the past few months. The team have been supporting patients to navigate their Ophthalmology appointments by contacting them pre-appointment to check if the patient has any access needs.

Hear how CDC Care Navigator Anne Okeke was able to support a patient to attend their appointment:

A patient wasn't able to get public transport to the hospital for her appointment due to mobility issues, and the taxi would have been £33.

She was so worried as she didn't want to miss her appointment, so I changed the time of her appointment and arranged for the North West Ambulance Service to drop her off at the appointment.

This meant she could receive the tests she needed!

Welcome to the CDC Team

We are pleased to announce the recent hiring of Jahanara Khatun to the position of Trainee Community Diagnostic Care Navigator in our CDC team. Jahanara will be joining the Care Navigator team at the end of October and will be supporting patients at the new Harpurhey, CDC when it opens. In the meantime, Jahanara will be visiting community groups, care homes and other groups to share our plans for the CDC.



Also joining the team shortly working alongside Jo Davies - Workforce Development Lead, are 2 new members of the workforce team. They will support all our staff in the CDCs with their ongoing development. Molly Millar will be working as a Workforce Development Projects Support Officer -- and will coordinate administrative and project support duties for the team to enable delivery of the CDC workforce development strategy. Martyn Halliwell is joining us as Workforce Development Training Manager he will work closely with external agencies, diagnostic services and training leads to provide continuation of training solutions and develop a series of robust development programme for our workforce.

Community Involvement

The CDC Care Navigators are visiting community organisations to share more information about CDC services leading up to opening CDC Harpurhey. If your group/organisation are based in North Manchester and would like the team to visit to talk with your members, then contact community.diagnostics@mft.nhs.uk