

## 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March is Healthcare Science Week!

This week, we want to bring to light the importance of the Cardiovascular Healthcare Scientists in Greater Manchester. Healthcare scientists represent approximately 5% of the NHS workforce. However, they are involved in more than 80% of patients needing a diagnosis and receiving care.

The flexibility of the scientific workforce was clearly shown during the COVID pandemic, with redeployment of scientists in many different areas of healthcare, using their transferable skills for patients benefits.

Cardiovascular Science involves studying known and suspected heart disease. Healthcare science staff undertake diagnostic, monitoring and critical procedures for patients. Examples of cardiovascular science tests:

- Echocardiography – using ultrasound to obtain pictures of the heart
- Pacemaker insertion and follow-up – taking measurements and programming pacemaker devices to make sure they are working properly

The Greater Manchester Cardiovascular Network is working alongside healthcare scientists across the region to improve joint working across diagnostic services. With Cardiovascular Science in Greater Manchester, the standard of diagnostic services delivered across the region is fair, regardless of where a patient presents for care. However, there is still lots of work to do around areas such as:

- ✓ Sharing of data with improved IT systems, allowing cross-region collaboration
- ✓ Increasing the opportunity for training placements, to develop a future workforce
- ✓ Increasing diagnostic capacity by investing in new facilities, equipment, and training new and existing staff, contributing to recovery from COVID-19 and reducing pressure
- ✓ Delivering a better and more personal diagnostic experience for patients, by providing a single point of access to a range of safe, quality diagnostic services in the community

Keith Pearce, Consultant Lead Scientist, Manchester University Foundation Trust stated “By addressing these issues, we hope Greater Manchester can work together in delivering a region wide elective recovery program for cardiac diagnostic services and ultimately reduced the waiting times for all our patients.”

**#HCSWeek23**