**Update on progress with diagnostics**

The North West’s diagnostics community continues to work to reduce waiting lists built up as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The regional diagnostics team and the three Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) across the region are focusing on improving quality, efficiency and effectiveness of patient care. Progress is being made in a number of key areas thanks to the input from diagnostics staff working with local, system and regional leaders, which include; improving performance, increasing capacity through the roll out of Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) and supporting workforce.

CDCs continue to grow and develop. To date, nationally, the total volume of tests delivered through CDCs has reached 3,58 million, achieving 2.76 million during 2022/23. The most recent figures show that since the programme went live during 2021/22, the North West has delivered 507,327 procedures, making our region, the fourth largest contributor to CDC tests delivered. The North West has 15 sites live, with further sites approved for implementation over the next two years. Two more sites for Cheshire and Merseyside have recently been approved.

Breakdown of tests delivered to date:

* Endoscopy: 22,085
* Imaging: 262,810
* Physiological Measurements: 40,132
* Pathology: 74,895
* Other / Miscellaneous: 107,405

All three of our ICSs are updating their performance improvement plans (PIPs) following the 2023/24 Operational Planning round, to demonstrate the planned improvements to be made on diagnostic performance.

ICSs will be monitored against these plans and assurances sought via the regional Elective Recovery Groups and Diagnostics Board, which also provides an opportunity to identify challenges, offer support and share good practice.

Diagnostics is now on the agenda for those Trusts receiving additional regional and national support, in order to reduce the volume of patients waiting for a diagnostic procedure, reducing the long waits position and reducing the overall number of patients waiting 6 weeks or more.

Current published data shows that within the last 12 months, the overall volume of patients waiting has reduced by 8%, however, the volume of patients waiting 6 weeks or more, has increased by 3.4%. This data position currently excludes Greater Manchester’s largest Trust, who have been updating their electronic patient record system.

To support further, a national platform known as the Digital Mutual Aid System (DMAS) has been released, and the Diagnostic module going live in Q4 2022/23. This system will further support requests for mutual aid for diagnostic procedures from providers from across the country.

A third North West workforce workshop was held on 26th April 2023 following the success of the previous two sessions in September and December 2022.

Staff across the region continue to work closely on the delivery of priorities for imaging, endoscopy, physiological sciences, digital and workforce and to maximise transformation efforts and benefits realisation across all diagnostic pillars.