



**Staffordshire and
Stoke-on-Trent**
Integrated Care Board

Our Ref: PW/AKB/FOI/0224/733

Stafford Education & Enterprise Park
Weston Road
Stafford
ST18 0BF

1st March 2024

Telephone: 0300 123 1461

Sent by email

Dear

FOI-0224-733

Your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your request for information received on the 15th February 2024. We can confirm that the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board can provide the following information.

An anonymised copy of this response will be made publicly available on the ICB website.

Please see our responses in blue below:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

Availability of NT-proBNP testing

- **How many Community Diagnostic Centres are currently operational in your area?**

Within Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent there will be three CDCs.

CDC1 and CDC2 are in the process of being operational, and CDC3 will not be operational until 2025.

Please find attached a document detailing the services that will be provided at the CDCs; this is subject to change.

Chair: David Pearson MBE

Chief Executive Officer: Peter Axon

- Is NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure currently available within local Community Diagnostic Centres? (please specify if any local Community Diagnostic Centres do not offer NT-proBNP testing)
- If NT-proBNP testing for suspected heart failure is not currently available, are there any plans to introduce it in future?

The ICB does not hold specific information about NP-proBNP testing. This would need to be requested directly from the Trust providing the service. The Trust name and email address is provided on the document attached.

Testing Volume

- How many NT-proBNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?
- How many BNP blood tests have been performed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?
- How many patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure have accessed the local Community Diagnostic Centre between January 2021 to August 2023?

Please refer to response above.

Guidelines

- What guidelines are in place for the local Community Diagnostic Centre to follow in relation to administering BNP and or NT-proBNP tests for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?
- What referral pathways should be followed by the local Community Diagnostic Centre in relation to patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?

Please refer to response above.

Targets/metrics

- What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of local population need and the likely demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing for patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure?
- Based on local demographics, what assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the number of patients with a suspected diagnosis of heart failure that should be seen by the centre on an annual basis?

Please refer to response above.

Scaling up

- **What assessment has the local Community Diagnostic Centre made of the need to increase access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing – including projections of growing need and increases in the number of people at risk of heart failure?**
- **What assessment has been made of the barriers that may impact the ability of local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet future demands for access to BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing?**
- **What assessment has been made of additional resources required by local Community Diagnostic Centres to meet rising demand for BNP and/or NT-proBNP testing over the next 12 months; 18 months; and 5 years?**
- **What resource has been allocated to local Community Diagnostic Centres for the acquirement of point of care testing capabilities and administration of BNP and/or NT-proBNP tests?**

Please refer to response above.

Should you require any further information or clarification regarding this response please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are dissatisfied with the response, you are entitled to request an internal review which should be formally requested in writing and must be within two calendar months from the date this response was issued.

To request an internal review

You can request an internal review by contacting the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board FOI team by emailing the team at StaffsStokeFOI@staffsstoke.icb.nhs.uk or by post to the address at the top of this letter.

If you are not content with the outcome of your internal review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board's FOI complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

www.ico.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

Paul Winter
Associate Director of Corporate Governance