



Joint Working Executive Summary

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Project title	Building Capacity, Efficiency and Resilience - Newcastle Diagnostic Hub.
Project partners	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Bayer plc.
Project summary	<p>The aim of the project is to redesign and re-purpose an existing vacant day ward in the Ophthalmology Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary.</p> <p>The re-purposed ward will provide a diagnostic hub which will be configured to promote efficiency and high-volume patient throughput, to support the recovery of the ophthalmology service following the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The diagnostic hub aims to address the backlog of patients awaiting imaging, alongside current and future management of all medical retina and glaucoma patients, while restoring imaging and treatment according to trust COVID-19 guidelines.</p> <p>The project also intends to design and implement new patient pathways that aim to change how medical retina services are delivered, in line with NICE guidelines.</p> <p>These proposed changes will see the recruitment, training and deployment of entry level technicians and appropriate clinical staff, alongside the purchase and implementation of the required remote imaging equipment.</p>
Expected benefits to patients, the NHS and Bayer	<p>Expected benefits for Patients are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aims to increase rapid access to medical retina and glaucoma services by increasing appointment availability from 54 available appointments to 210 available appointments per week.• Aims to reduce waiting time for assessment appointments compared to baseline, to meet hospital targets set for both new and follow-up patients.• Aims to improve the patient journey and experience, to be measured using a bespoke questionnaire. <p>Expected benefits for the Trust are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aims to support full compliance with NICE targets for both Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Diabetic Retinopathy, by designing treatment pathways based on current NICE guidelines.• Intends to identify and treat a greater number of patients compared to baseline, through increased capacity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to address the backlog of patients which has built up during COVID-19 by increasing available appointments from 54 to 210 appointments per week. <p>Expected benefits for Bayer are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating our commitment to ophthalmology patient care by collaborating on a large strategic project. • Gaining a better understanding of The Newcastle Hospitals NHS FT and patients' needs, in particular during a Global pandemic. • Demonstrating our commitment to patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. • Opportunity to share learnings and best practice from this collaboration within the ophthalmology community. • Increasing imaging capacity and efficiency aims to ensure treatment is in line with NICE guidelines. (Bayer has a NICE approved treatment in this therapy area).
Start date	April 2021

Date of Preparation: April 2021

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