Community Health Partnerships

Neighbourhood Health In Action

April 2026

Introduction

As the NHS transforms, the opportunity to deliver neighbourhood health centres quickly, efficiently and at scale has never been greater. At the heart of this opportunity is an estate that has potential to support more care in the community.

The NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) estate is a portfolio of purpose-built primary and community care facilities. Many sites enable the shift of care closer to home, breaking down the barriers between services and placing communities at the centre of a more preventative, integrated health system.

LIFT buildings were designed for this purpose. Flexible, modern and located in the communities that need them most, they offer ready-made infrastructure for bringing together GPs, nurses, allied health professionals, mental health teams, social care and voluntary sector partners under one roof. By maximising the use of this existing estate, the NHS can deliver neighbourhood health centres at pace and at less cost of new construction, accelerating delivery of care where patients need it most.

The productivity case is compelling. Optimising LIFT estate drives measurable gains in clinical throughput and enables integrated teams to work more efficiently, reducing duplication, improving coordination and making every pound of NHS resource work harder.

For staff, LIFT facilities make a tangible difference. Co-location fosters collaboration and creates working environments that support staff wellbeing, as well as recruitment and retention. For patients, the benefits are more accessible, joined-up care delivered locally, with less need to travel to acute settings for services that can be provided in the heart of their neighbourhood.

Find out how maximising the NHS LIFT estate is enabling systems to accelerate neighbourhood health delivery.

Delivering Neighbourhood Health

The NHS will establish a dedicated neighbourhood health centre in every community, beginning with areas facing the lowest life expectancy and highest deprivation. CHP is already turning this ambition into reality. Working closely with ICBs, local authorities, and providers, CHP continues to adapt and repurpose LIFT buildings to expand capacity, improve access, and help deliver the Government's vision for a neighbourhood health service.

Read on to explore real examples of neighbourhood health in action.

Kentish Town Health Centre

Delivering neighbourhood health in North London

The award winning, Kentish Town Health Centre supports a highly successful model of neighbourhood-based, integrated care, delivering measurable impact for local residents.

The Centre hosts the innovative East Camden Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT), bringing together GPs, district nurses, social workers, mental health practitioners, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social prescribers in one coordinated, community-focused team. This multidisciplinary approach proactively supports patients on site, within the community and in their own homes, providing early intervention and helping prevent health issues from escalating into more serious conditions.

The Centre has strengthened collaboration between partners, making it easier for residents to access holistic, person-centred support. Bookable spaces are used by local services, including housing, welfare, mental health and community wellbeing support. This integration gives clinicians insight into wider factors affecting patients' lives, allowing them to tailor support that strengthens long term health and wellbeing.

The INT's proactive outreach model assesses individuals in familiar settings, enabling staff to identify unmet needs earlier, connecting people to community resources, and reducing reliance on hospital based care. This approach improves patient experience and supports more efficient use of NHS resources by diverting avoidable demand from GP surgeries and acute settings.

Recognised by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care as a leading model of neighbourhood health, Kentish Town Health Centre illustrates how integrated teams, modern estate design and strong partnership working can deliver real improvements for local communities.

"This kind of neighbourhood health centre is exactly what we want to see across the country"

Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

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Stapleford Care Centre

Enhancing local access through community investment

A £490k CHP investment funded a community hub at Stapleford Care Centre transforming a previously unused café space into a functional community area.

By creating dedicated space for community events, training and voluntary services, the centre is helping to address the broader social determinants of health. It enables healthcare providers to work alongside local community groups, moving beyond traditional prescriptions to strengthen community connection.

An additional £2.4m investment has reconfigured the first and second floors for additional clinical services. Former office space was converted into modern clinical rooms and improved patient waiting areas, significantly expanding the centre's ability to shift care out of hospital and closer to home. This shift ensures residents can access essential services in convenient locations, helping to relieve pressure on acute hospital sites.

This project demonstrates the impact of making full use of existing NHS LIFT estate, supporting services to work more closely together and deliver more proactive, community-focused care.

Read full case study

St Peter's Health Centre, Burnley

Unlocking estate capacity to deliver integrated community care

St Peter's Health Centre in Burnley is set to become a flagship for integrated community care.

A £3.2m CHP investment will repurpose the upper-floor spaces into modern clinical environments to support the expansion of musculoskeletal (MSK), mental health, and GP services. This will optimise the use of the seven-story building, unlocking value from space the NHS was already paying for.

St Peter's Health Centre forms part of a wider programme of transformation across East Lancashire. Together with Accrington Acorn Primary Care Centre and Barbara Castle Way they form part of the estates solution to deliver Neighbourhood Health Services in this area. This strategic network will ensure that residents across East Lancashire can access specialist diagnostics and treatment in the community, directly alleviating demands on Burnley General and Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospitals.

The work at St Peter's Health Centre is underpinned by integrated partnership working between CHP, NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB), and LIFTCo partner Eric Wright Group (One Partnership).

Read full case study

The Reginald Centre, Leeds

Health, local authority, and community services under one roof

The Reginald Centre in Chapeltown Leeds is located in an area of high deprivation and health inequalities.

The centre is a model for integrated neighbourhood health facilities providing an accessible 'one-stop-shop' for residents and has good transport links and extended opening hours.

CHP and Leeds City Council are joint head tenants and work closely with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH), Westfield GP surgery, and many voluntary and charity groups to support neighbourhood health delivery.

The Centre hosts a GP surgery with a social prescribing team, Community Dental Health, Community Paediatrics (Speech & Language therapy, Eye clinics, CAMHS, Integrated Children's Additional Needs) and a Pharmacy. In addition, there is welfare and benefits advice, housing support, employment support, and money management help. A library offers digital support, social groups and activities, and a community café.

Personalised, holistic support: Residents can receive clinical care alongside welfare, housing, benefits or employment advice during the same visit.

Reducing inequalities and targeted support for a diverse population (42.9% White British, 18.8% Asian, 11.4% Black) with lower life expectancy than the Leeds and national averages.

Faster access to preventative and early intervention support: patients with high levels of chronic conditions such as diabetes, COPD and mental health needs.

Culturally sensitive services: Help to improve trust and reduce barriers to accessing care.

"It is fantastic having a one stop shop, putting people and patients at the centre of services, with teams working together."

GP, Westfield Medical Centre

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Watch the video

One Life Hartlepool

Creating better spaces for community Mental Health

One Life Hartlepool (OLH) is a multipurpose neighbourhood hub with a range of services under one roof.

It hosts three GP practices and community services including podiatry, respiratory care, musculoskeletal teams, diabetic clinics, eye screening, audiology, and speech and language therapy. The centre also provides specialist dental care, x-ray and ultrasound diagnostics.

In 2025, space in OLH was remodelled to support the relocation of the adult community mental health team from Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) from unsuitable accommodation elsewhere. Supported by £497,000 CHP capital, this project created modern, accessible space across the ground and first floors. The expansion strengthens community-based mental health provision and reduces stigma.

OLH serves an urban community with high levels of COPD, dementia, heart disease, obesity, and learning disability compared to national averages. The area experiences significantly lower healthy life expectancy and is ranked within the highest band of deprivation, highlighting the need for accessible, integrated local healthcare.

OLH enables the centralisation of a range of services in an accessible community location improving patient experience, streamlining care, and supporting delivery of the NHS 10-year plan.

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Flexible estate solutions

Low cost, high impact estates solution

When a large part of Croft Shifa Health Centre, Rochdale risked becoming vacant, potentially costing the Greater Manchester ICB £800,000 per year, CHP proposed a flexible leasing approach and an estates solution that would improve service quality for young people. A variation created a new base for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) enabling them to move in quickly.

CHP worked with the on site teams to repurpose the space quickly and effectively. By resolving historic leasing and financial issues, coordinating legal approvals, and securing an agreed lease within just five days, we unlocked a fast, affordable route to keep essential services in the community.

This agile, partnership-led approach ensured that high quality, neighbourhood-based accommodation remained in use, preventing costly voids while giving CAMHS staff and service users a more suitable environment.

Repurposing existing estate at pace

CHP responded with speed and delivery capability to move a Minor Injuries Unit into Accrington Acorn Primary Care Centre (PCC), when it was confirmed that the nearby Accrington Victoria Community Hospital would close. Faced with the urgent need to relocate this essential service, CHP and its partners acted decisively, mobilising at pace to ensure continuity of care with minimal interruption to patients.

Working under intense system pressure, the team delivered a fully operational relocation within just 14 days ahead of the Christmas period, which included reconfiguring space, transfer of equipment, and safely accommodating the Minor Injuries Unit, diagnostics and a GP service. The response demonstrates CHP's agile, solution focused teamwork, and ability to overcome complex challenges during the holiday period.

A further £2 million reconfiguration is now underway to create a permanent home for the services, demonstrating CHP's long term commitment to strengthening local provision.

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Hodge Hill Primary Care Centre

Adaptable estate supports service relocation

The rapid accommodation of hospital services into Hodge Hill Primary Care Centre highlights the flexibility of the LIFT estate.

Over a three-month period three services: Healthcare for Older People, the Parkinson's Multi Disciplinary Clinic, and an infusion suite were successfully relocated from the local acute hospital. Using £3,000 of CHP funding, meeting rooms were converted into clinical spaces to accommodate the Healthcare for Older People service.

The shift of care into Hodge Hill shows how the LIFT estate can respond to evolving requirements through close collaboration with system partners. The project has addressed local pressures, increased productivity within the building, and delivered meaningful impact at minimal cost.

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Newton Community Hospital

From Hospital to Community

A £1.75 million transformation of Newton Community Hospital expanded inpatient capacity by 33%.

Repurposing space added ten intermediate care beds enabling patients to recover with intermediate support before returning home. This unblocks acute hospital beds and ensures patients receive the right care in the right place, in the community.

Newton Community Hospital also includes a state-of-the-art gym and physiotherapy suite, which supports an integrated, multidisciplinary model of care. Patients visiting for cardiology, x-rays or ultrasound benefit from a holistic range of services where rehabilitation and diagnostics are co-located under one roof. The service improvements made possible through repurposing space at Newton Community Hospital has delivered approximately 220,000 additional appointments per year.

Through partnership working between CHP, LIFTCo partner Renova, and local NHS Trusts this investment has delivered a future-proof asset that prioritises community wellbeing while maximising

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Expanding diagnostic capacity in local communities

CHP continues to support the expansion of diagnostic capacity across the NHS by maximising the use of the LIFT estate. 10 Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) are operational and host services such as CT, MRI and a wide range of other diagnostic modalities. Through a blend of national and CHP funding we have supported community diagnostic service delivery.

By reconfiguring existing space quickly and cost effectively, CHP has enabled systems to scale up diagnostic provision at pace, creating additional capacity while alleviating pressure on acute hospitals. This approach demonstrates how the LIFT estate can support national ambitions for neighbourhood health and improved patient outcomes.

Finchley Memorial Hospital

Over 500,000 additional diagnostic tests and scans delivered

The CDC at Finchley Memorial Hospital opened in 2021. The project was delivered in three distinct phases, each requiring 12 to 18 months to complete. It now houses a range of diagnostic care, including CT, MRI, ultrasound, phlebotomy, ophthalmology, cardiology, respiratory testing, endoscopy and more.

To date, the facility has delivered more than 500,000 tests, checks and scans for local residents providing early diagnosis and peace of mind. The site operates 8am–8pm, seven days a week, providing faster, more convenient access for residents and plays a key role in reducing diagnostic waiting times across North London.

Armley Moor Community Diagnostic Centre

Transforming underused space into community diagnostics

Since opening in 2024, the Armley Moor CDC, has delivered more than 10,000 tests for local residents across Leeds.

This includes over 3,800 blood tests, 3,700 cardio respiratory tests, and 3,300 ultrasounds, allowing patients to receive essential tests without travelling to major hospitals (data up to date as of August 2025). The CDC was developed by transforming underused space through a £470k reconfiguration funded by the National CDC Programme and CHP capital. The reconfiguration took only ten weeks, finishing on time and on budget.

Other services at Armley Moor include, Children's services run by the local authority, Children and Young People's Mental Health services provided by the local Trust, as well as dietetics, podiatry, musculoskeletal and much more, providing an integrated approach.

Since the opening of the CDC facility, staff have reported overwhelmingly positive patient feedback on convenience and improved access to care.

Rochester Healthy Living Centre

Strengthening hub and spoke diagnostics in the community

Rochester Healthy Living Centre, is part of a hub and spoke CDC model, expanding diagnostic capacity across Medway, Kent.

This spoke site provides community based access to services such as x-ray, ultrasound, cardiology, respiratory testing and additional planned diagnostics, helping reduce elective backlogs and enabling patients to receive tests closer to home. The recent implementation of new CT and MRI facilities will help relieve demand on the local hospital, which is already under significant pressure.

General practice utilisation and modernisation projects

CHP is supporting General Practices to unlock more than **130,000** additional GP appointments each year across the LIFT estate.

Through NHS England's Utilisation and Modernisation Fund (UMF) Programme, small scale refurbishments and reconfigurations within existing surgery premises, will increase clinical capacity, helping to improve access and support better patient outcomes.

With many GP premises outdated or no longer fit for purpose, the adaptability of LIFT buildings enables capacity to be expanded quickly and cost effectively where it is needed most. This approach helps practices see more patients, operate more efficiently, and deliver care in high quality, modern environments.

During 2025-26, 16 opportunities for refurbishments and reconfigurations within LIFT buildings was funded by £1.14m of UMF investment. These projects will transform non-clinical rooms into modern consulting and treatment areas increasing appointment availability and supporting more efficient models of care.

Three projects have been completed, with sites such as the Kingswood Health Centre, the Orchard Centre and Radcliffe Medical Practice, already benefiting from increased clinical throughput, improved patient flow, and more resilient primary care provision.

Further projects at Stourbridge Health and Social Care Centre, Sandringham Health Centre, Parkside Medical Practice, Kingfisher Practice and The Charnwood Practice are in construction, with expected patient appointments increasing by 97,790 per annum.

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Buildings at the heart of their communities

We are on track to generate **£55m** in social value in 2025-26

£40.5m
Working locally to unlock employment opportunities

£4.5m
Buildings at the Heart of the Community initiatives

£700k
Initiatives to safeguard the environment

£70k
Supporting staff health and wellbeing and learning and development programmes

Fareham Community Hospital Garden Project connects patients to nature

CHP champions social prescribing initiatives across the LIFT estate supporting a range of projects that help connect people to non-clinical services and improve overall wellbeing.

There is much evidence to support the healing power of nature. We have invested in several community gardens including one at Fareham Community Hospital. These green spaces are available to be enjoyed by patients, staff and members of the public working hand in hand with other health preventative measures.

Local Primary Care Networks can prescribe time in community gardens for patients who may benefit, helping to tackle issues such as social isolation and mental health challenges through nature-based interventions.

Empowering healthy choices - Hornsey Central Neighbourhood Health Centre

A children's art competition was supported by CHP to support health prevention in North London. Children aged four to nine from the local primary school were invited to interpret this theme through a range of artistic creations, supported by their art department. Ten winning designs are displayed prominently within the health centre, helping to make prevention messages visible, engaging and meaningful for the whole community.

Supporting awareness and health prevention initiatives

CHP has supported a series of community focused cancer awareness and prevention events across the portfolio. Each event is aimed at improving early detection rates, raising awareness, and making health services more accessible.

At the Vermuyden Centre in Doncaster, a cancer screening day offered PSA blood tests and cervical smear testing alongside mental health support to encourage early intervention.

At East Oxford Health Centre, a popup clinic delivered in partnership with heart specialists provided residents with blood pressure checks and education, empowering individuals to better understand their health and prevent future issues.

At Westbourne Green Community Health Care Centre in Bradford, CHP supported the annual 'One Big Cancer Awareness and Advice Day', where patients and residents received information on cancer prevention, screening, and local support services.

We are a DHSC owned NHS company working in partnership with local communities supporting care delivery.

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