

Transforming pathology services

Update for colleagues and service users



24 March 2021

Introduction



This newsletter has been introduced to provide colleagues with the latest updates, news and information about the programme to transform pathology services across South East London over the next four years.

In this issue you will find information about:

- The new SYNLAB/NHS pathology partnership and what this means
- The new 'hub' laboratory and where it will be located
- Links to career opportunities
- Information about how you can ask questions and share feedback

This newsletter needs a name. Do you have a good idea? Send it in and whoever comes up with the best one will win a £30 Amazon voucher.

[Submit my suggested newsletter name](#)

About the new partnership



From 1 April, SYNLAB UK & Ireland will become responsible for the delivery of Viapath's day-to-day pathology services, which are at the core of the new partnership. Colleagues across SYNLAB, Viapath and the NHS will work together over the next few months to develop plans to achieve the shared vision of developing an integrated, world-leading pathology network. Service transformation will be completed by 2024 and will see us build on the strengths and good practice within today's Viapath service.

If you want to understand more about the partnership, have a read of this short e-book. It provides an overview of the programme to develop a hub and spoke pathology service, what this means for people and pathology across South East London, and a timeline of key activities. You can view and download the document by clicking on the button below, and it may come in handy if anyone asks you about it.

[View the e-book](#)

Hub laboratory location announced



Now that contracts have been signed we can share the location of the exciting new 'hub' laboratory, which is at the heart of our plans to transform pathology services across South East London.

Friars Bridge Court, 41-45 Blackfriars Road, London has been carefully selected following an extensive review of potentially suitable sites across central London. The building was identified as the optimal location when considering distance from the various NHS organisations it will serve, as well as the excellent public transport links that surround it. It also offers the exact size, layout and infrastructure required; and its various floors are capable of bearing the weight of the extensive modern-day laboratory machinery and equipment we will need. To be completed by 2024, the new hub will become one of the largest purpose-built pathology laboratories in the UK.

State-of-the-art equipment and ultra-modern facilities will make the hub laboratory an inspiring place to work and visit as we seek to meet our aims of delivering better patient outcomes, improving ways of working for clinicians and scientists, and delivering better value for money for the NHS.

Nevertheless, whilst investment in a brand new hub is an exciting prospect, it may also raise some queries for colleagues and service users in terms of how it will affect you, for example, the way in which you work, the way you use and access the facilities, and your own personal travel arrangements.

A website has been set up to help answer some of these questions, as well as to share useful information relating to the new pathology partnership.

Please visit <https://sel.synlab.co.uk/> for more information about the new hub laboratory, including location maps, photographs, interesting facts and figures, questions and answers, and much more.

If you can't find what you're looking for, please email LetsTalk@viapath.org and members of our joint communications team will do their very best to help.

This website will be updated regularly with information about the overall partnership and the transformation programme, so please consider saving it in your 'Favourites'. This information will also be available on [ViaNet](#), Viapath's intranet for colleagues.

[Take me to the partnership website](#)

Drop-in Q&A session for colleagues

There will be an open drop-in Q&A session for colleagues from 10:00 to 10:45 on Thursday 25 March 2021. Focusing on the announcement of the hub laboratory location, it is an opportunity to ask questions about the hub and anything else relevant to the pathology partnership.

This informal discussion event will be hosted jointly by leads from Viapath, SYNLAB and the NHS. Feel free to drop in and out, as and when you like. You can ask, listen or get involved in discussions - whatever suits you.

Announcements couldn't be made earlier owing to commercial sensitivity, and it is recognised that some people will be unable to make this session at short notice. Although it will be recorded and uploaded to the intranet, another session can be arranged if colleagues feel it would be helpful. You can make a request or share feedback by clicking on the button below.

Here's the link to the Microsoft Teams meeting, as well as dial-in details.

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Join with a video conferencing device

[145996899@t.plcm.vc](tel:145996899@t.plcm.vc)

Video Conference ID: 117 170 863 7

[Alternate VTC dialing instructions](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+44 20 3821 1679,588258253#](tel:+442038211679,588258253#) United Kingdom, London

Phone Conference ID: 588 258 253#

Branding matters



Starting with a sizeable expansion in services over the next year, the new partnership between the NHS and SYNLAB will see an evolution of local pathology services. For example, Viapath will provide pathology services to primary and community care across Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham towards the end of 2021, and will welcome more than 100 NHS staff who will transfer to the service. Over the next four years we will see many changes in how we do things within pathology, allowing us to deliver major benefits to patients, clinicians, other service users and consumers, the NHS, and to our own workforce. For these reasons a new brand for the service will be launched in Autumn 2021, marking the start of a new and different relationship between the NHS, SYNLAB, and Viapath pathology services.

Thanks to the excellent scientists, clinicians and others working within Viapath, there is much to be proud of about today's service. SYNLAB and the NHS want to work together with Viapath colleagues, colleagues transferring over from the NHS, and our clinical service users, to develop a new brand which builds on the history and values of the Viapath organisation, the strengths of the service, and the good practice in place today. Various activities will run throughout Spring 2021 and more information will follow. If you would like to take part in one of the 90-minute branding focus groups, please click the button below or email communications@viapath.org

[Volunteer to attend a branding focus group](#)

Getting involved and sharing ideas



There will be many opportunities to get involved in shaping transformation plans, to share your ideas and feedback, and to have your say. These include monthly all-colleague briefings with live Q&A from June 2021, and '[Big Conversation](#)' events where important proposals and activities will be up for discussion so that colleagues can directly influence plans and decisions.

This update for colleagues and service users will also keep you informed about specific activities relating to the transformation programme. You can also visit the new dedicated [website](#) for the latest updates and information.

Within Viapath, [Our News](#) will continue to provide colleagues with weekly news and updates which relate to day-to-day pathology activities, and you can visit [ViaNet](#) for access to a wide array of news, information and other resources.

Your ideas, comments and feedback are always welcome and listened to. If you have anything to ask or share, please email LetsTalk@viapath.org

[Click here to share feedback or ask a question](#)

Develop your career here

OPPORTUNITY

There will be many career opportunities relating to the development of a hub and spoke pathology network. Applications can be made through the SYNLAB UK & Ireland website at www.synlab.co.uk/careers/current-opportunities/

A number of new posts are being advertised now, including:

- Programme Support Officer
- Clinical Governance Lead

Viapath colleagues, please notify your line manager and the recruitment team if you plan to apply by emailing synlab-recruitment@viapath.org

[View job opportunities](#)
