

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Free opportunity for public to test their blood pressure and heart health in Tilbury**

A new scheme, launched today, will allow people to have a free blood pressure and heart check at their local pharmacy.

The checks will initially be carried out at five pharmacies in Tilbury, East Tilbury and Chadwell with plans to offer them at the Tilbury Hub in the summer. The pilot is funded by NHS Thurrock CCG and Thurrock Council's Public Health team, through the Better Care Fund. The intention is to roll this out across Thurrock eventually.

#### **Ian Wake, Director Public Health at Thurrock Council said:**

"We have worked closely with Thurrock CCG, pharmacies, the Local Pharmaceutical Committee and GP practices to provide this free service. We found that there are many thousands of people with undiagnosed conditions like high blood pressure and atrial fibrillation (a heart condition) which can increase the risk of having a stroke

"We want to work with health service colleagues to find the missing thousands and treat the hundreds who we know are undiagnosed in Thurrock."

People can ask to have their blood pressure or heart checked, or pharmacists can offer people the checks if they feel it would benefit the patient. If the tests find anything wrong, patients will be referred to the local Blood Pressure Clinic or sent to their GP.

#### **Rahul Chaudhari, Head of Primary Care at NHS Thurrock CCG said:**

"It is great to see this new initiative working with the Public Health team. Hypertension and heart problems, if undiagnosed can lead to serious health problems. Screening people in pharmacies is an innovative way to improve public health."

The pilot will be evaluated after six months. If it is found to be successful, this opportunity will be rolled out across the Thurrock Borough.

ENDS

**Media enquiries:** Contact the Communications Team at Thurrock CCG, 01375 365 810 or email: [thurrock.ccg@nhs.net](mailto:thurrock.ccg@nhs.net)

Pharmacies in the scheme:

- Dip's Chemist and Riverview in Chadwell St. Mary
- Chapharm Chemist and Asset Chemist in Tilbury
- Allcures in East Tilbury.

The estimated number of people with Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) in Tilbury is 7,977 of which 2,195 are undiagnosed\*

The estimated number of people believed to have AF in Tilbury is 785 of which 330 are undiagnosed\*

\*Based on 2016 Public Health England estimates and Quality Outcomes Framework surgery reports.

### **About Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group**

Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is responsible for the commissioning and delivery of local health care services. The CCG buys healthcare from hospitals, community and mental health services and some specialist services. service contracts with GPs, dentists, pharmacists and opticians are managed by NHS England.

Driven by clinicians, the CCG is supported by a wide range of professionals and strategic partners, to commission and deliver joined up seamless quality services to the public, patients and carers of Thurrock. Our vision is that the health and care experience for the people of Thurrock will be improved as a result of our working together. Further information about Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group is available from [www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk](http://www.thurrockccg.nhs.uk)