

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Merton residents learn more about new services at The Nelson Health Centre in 'Community Open Day'



All photos by Kim Gray

Residents across Merton had chance to find out about some of the new and existing health, social care, charity and community services available to the local community as The Nelson Health Centre in Wimbledon held a special 'Community Open Day' last week.

The Nelson Health Centre in Kingston Road, Wimbledon already plays a vital role in supporting community health with facilities including GP surgeries; mental health services; minor surgery facilities; support services for older people; and a range of specialist outpatient clinics. The centre also provided COVID testing and vaccination facilities but, with pandemic restrictions now easing, a number of existing services are now returning to The Nelson, together with new health and social care services for residents to access.

The Community Open Day on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July allowed residents of all ages chance to pop into The Nelson and find out about the many services available including:

- A range of new and existing health and social care services, including **mental health services** offered by South West London and St George's NHS Trust ([www.swlstg.nhs.uk](http://www.swlstg.nhs.uk)), **physiotherapy services** provided by Connect Health ([www.connecthealth.co.uk](http://www.connecthealth.co.uk)), and the range of services and support offered by the **Nelson Medical Practice** ([nelsonmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://nelsonmedicalpractice.co.uk)) and **NHS Merton** ([southwestlondonics.org.uk/merton/](http://southwestlondonics.org.uk/merton/))
- **Local charities** offering advice to residents on what support is available in the local area to help during the current 'cost of living' crisis, including 'Warm & Well in Merton' ([wimbledonguild.co.uk/warm-well](http://wimbledonguild.co.uk/warm-well)) and **Merton Community Hub** ([mertoncommunityhub.org.uk](http://mertoncommunityhub.org.uk)), as well as **Bereavement Counselling** services ([nelsonmedicalpractice.co.uk/services/bereavement-service/](http://nelsonmedicalpractice.co.uk/services/bereavement-service/))
- **AFC Wimbledon Foundation** outlining the weekly health and wellbeing activities they offer to residents of all ages ([afcwimbledonfoundation.com](http://afcwimbledonfoundation.com))
- **Merton pop-up library** was available for local residents to use, with details on the **wide range of library services** available across Merton ([libraries.merton.gov.uk](http://libraries.merton.gov.uk))

The Nelson Health Centre was built by South West London Health and Care Partnership which brings together healthcare investor Fulcrum working closely with Community Health Partnerships, a key part of the NHS family.

**Sarah Beaumont-Smith, Director at South West London Health and Care Partnership, said:** *“The Nelson has grown to become a central part of the local community, supporting the health and well-being of residents across Merton, so the Community Open Day was a great chance to showcase the wide range of new and existing services available.”*

**Philippa Robinson, Regional Director – London for Community Health Partnerships said:** *“Health centres, like The Nelson play a vital role in their communities and can facilitate access to a wide range of health and wellbeing services that support improvement in population health outcomes. This is a key aim of our Buildings at the Heart of their Communities initiative and I am delighted that we were able to once again run events such the Community Open Day post pandemic. It was wonderful to welcome local people into the centre to find out more, have the support of health and wellbeing services in Merton, and to show that The Nelson is more than just a place to go to get treatment when you are unwell.”*

**Fiona Sutherland from AFC Wimbledon Foundation said:** *“AFC Wimbledon Foundation is excited to be partnering with the Nelson Health Centre to help increase the health and wellbeing of football fans and local residents alike. It was great to join the Community Open Day to showcase some of the events and activities the Foundation has on offer to support residents of all ages across Merton.”*

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