



## **Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance**

### **September 2021 Stakeholder Update**

#### **A message from Yvonne Elliott, Managing Director**

As we continue to deliver our programmes of work, we remain focused on reducing cancer inequalities, and improving patient experience and outcomes, by working collaboratively with our partners across Humber, Coast and Vale (HCV).

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October we will be hosting a Health Inequalities Summit, in which you can hear from national and regional speakers who will outline our priorities and share best practice from across the Alliance. Delegates will also be invited to choose from several workshops shaped around NHS Long Term Plan ambitions and Covid-19 recovery, and I invite you to join us. You can find out more and register for the event [here](#).

In the meantime, please continue reading to find out more about the recent work that has taken place across the Alliance.

### **Awareness and Early Diagnosis**

#### **Cancer Research UK support for Primary Care Networks**

The Cancer Research UK Facilitator team are providing ongoing support to Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across HCV, to help meet the improvement targets of the Early Cancer Diagnosis elements of the PCN [Direct enhanced service](#) (DES).

Jason Feavers (Vale of York, North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire CCGs) and Jon Bateman (Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Yorkshire CCGs) are providing direct support by assisting PCNs in identifying areas and goals for improvement, devising work plans, and delivering training to both clinical and non-clinical staff.

The impact of the pandemic is shaping much of the Facilitators activities at present. They have been working closely with York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to share new insight data on two-week wait referrals with PCNs in York and Scarborough, guiding quality improvement plans and helping primary care colleagues address the recovery of referrals for some cancers.

Across the area, they have been engaging with PCNs to address the recovery of cervical screening, using and developing the network of Practice Cancer Champions to help drive the recovery of cervical screening rates. For instance, in Hull, they have been working in



partnership with Bevan and Symphonie PCNs to deliver training and support for staff in a focussed initiative to maximise the use of Extended Access cervical screening provision.

Elsewhere, they have helped PCNs integrate cervical screening prompts into regular health checks for Learning Disability (LD) patients, as well as the physical health checks for those with Severe Mental Illness, both groups often being underrepresented in cancer screening. They are also working closely with the local Public Health England Screening and Immunisation Coordinators as they aim to drive improvements in bowel screening uptake in LD patient groups.

### **Updates to Lung Health Checks in Hull**

From October, the Lung Health Check mobile unit will be moving from Castle Hill Hospital to Lidl on Hessle Road in Hull, before continuing to move across the city in a phased approach.

It is hoped that the move from a Trust to a community setting will help to increase attendance, as some patient feedback cites travel and parking concerns as reasons for declining invitations.

The programme team are also currently trialling pre-booked appointments with one GP practice, after this approach worked well in several other NHS Targeted Lung Health Check pilot sites. The new approach will mean an opt-out rather than opt-in process to test whether appointment uptake increases. Further information on the results of this trial will be provided in the next HCV stakeholder update.

Hull Lung Health Checks has continued to receive positive feedback from patients, including from Catherine who, after taking part in the lung health check service in July 2021, is now encouraging others to take up their appointment. [Click here](#) to find out why.

### **New Cancer Champion Volunteer Programme**

As the Cancer Champion Programme enters its third year with over 2,650 people across Humber, Coast and Vale having taken the training, the Alliance is excited to announce the development of a new Cancer Champion Volunteer Programme.

Over the past few months, the team have been and continue to work together to create a model that promotes collaboration with existing Cancer Champions in order to further raise awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and the signs and symptoms of cancer.

One aspect of the new model will see those who have taken their training use their cancer knowledge to deliver sessions to others within harder to reach communities in order to help tackle health inequalities in the region.



In September, the team held a focus group with a number of past training session participants to help determine how the Alliance can support future Cancer Champion volunteers in their role.

To find out more about the project, or to register your interest in becoming a Cancer Champion volunteer, email [eryccg.cancerchampion@nhs.net](mailto:eryccg.cancerchampion@nhs.net).

### **Face to face Cancer Champions Awareness Sessions resume**

After maintaining the Cancer Champion programme with virtual awareness sessions since August 2020, face to face sessions are returning!

The first in person session since March 2020 will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October in the Community Room at Asda, Mount Pleasant in Hull. This session will be followed for York attendees on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Costa Coffee in Haxby.

Both events will be smaller in capacity than previous face to face sessions in order to ensure attendees feel safe in the environment. [Click here](#) to find out more about the upcoming sessions and to register your attendance.

## **Diagnostics**

### **Cytosponge**

A new innovative device, which aids early identification and treatment of Barrett's Oesophagitis and prevents the development of oesophageal adenocarcinoma, is being piloted at Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The device, named Cytosponge, is a 'sponge on a string' that is no bigger than a capsule and can be swallowed in order to detect pre-cancerous cells in the oesophagus. This is a COVID-safe alternative to endoscopy for patients, providing a quick, cost-saving and effective triage to identify the highest risk patients.

Both trusts are currently in the process of coordinating training and will have completed this and be signed off to deliver Cytosponge clinics by the end of October.

### **Colon Capsule Endoscopy**

York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are continuing to pilot the use of Colon Capsule Endoscopy (CCE), which uses imaging technology from a capsule no bigger than a pill to help provide a timely diagnosis for patients.



To increase the amount of CCE procedures delivered, the pilot has now been extended to include post-polypectomy surveillance patients and an evaluation of this process will take place towards the end of 2021/22.

### **Community Diagnostic Hubs**

Confirmation has been received from NHS England and NHS Improvement that the HCV Partnership's year one business cases for the development of community diagnostic services have been approved. This initial phase of developments will help us to increase diagnostic service capacity across the HCV area and improve the digital connectivity of our diagnostic services.

A project group has been set up to enable us to move forward quickly with the procurement of mobile MR and CT scanners and to finalise plans for the operational delivery of the service once the equipment has been delivered. Work is also being undertaken with digital and provider colleagues to ensure that plans for the use of additional diagnostic equipment and enhancement of our digital infrastructure come to fruition as soon as possible. Through this planning work we will consider and implement action that will minimise the extent to which wider supply pressures impact on planned project timescales.

Programme resources are being deployed to take forward the formulation of plans for the further development of community diagnostic services over the next 3 years. Our intention is to develop the first draft of HCV wide Strategic Outline Case for the proposed programme of developments by January 2022. This work will include evaluation of place-based options, estimation of likely future workload and associated infrastructure requirements, review of staffing levels and extensive communication and engagement with staff, patients and the wider public and other stakeholders across the HCV area.

To find out more about the development and ambitions of Community Diagnostic Hubs, please [click here](#).

### **Treatment and Pathways**

#### **Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) Share and Learn event**

Back in July, the Alliance hosted a share and learn event to discuss the implementation of Faecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) alongside two week wait referrals for suspected lower GI cancer.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, HCV CA has been working with its partners to accelerate the implementation of FIT into the two week wait referral process in order to



safely manage waiting lists, improve patient experience and support faster access to treatment where required.

The first share and learn event was well attended and featured speakers from NHS England and NHS Improvement, as well as regional Cancer Alliances. The second of the two events, which both aim to support Cancer Alliances across England build on progress already made, will take place virtually on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

If you are interested in attending the second event, please contact [admin.hcvcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:admin.hcvcanceralliance@nhs.net)

## **Living With and Beyond Cancer**

### **Primary Care Breast Pain Clinics pilot**

There has been a rise in the number of people coming forward with breast symptoms, including breast pain, with trusts receiving 33% more urgent breast cancer referrals between April and July 2021, when compared to the same period in 2019/20.

To help secondary care safely manage NHS waiting lists for existing breast services, the Alliance is working with its partners to pilot new breast pain clinics that would provide an alternative service for people experiencing breast pain and no other concerning symptoms.

The introduction of breast pain clinics across the Humber, Coast and Vale region will help to decrease the number of patients on a two week wait pathway and improve patient experience by reducing the need for invasive tests and enabling more timely access for others.

Breast pain clinics are planned for implementation in Humber, Coast and Vale from early 2022.

### **New Quality Outcomes Framework Requirements for cancer 2021/22**

To support the role of Primary Care in supporting patients beyond their cancer diagnosis, changes have been made to the 2021/22 Quality Outcomes Framework (QoF). This will help to increase the personalisation of cancer care and the timing of Cancer Care Reviews.

Going forward, patients will receive a Cancer Care Review using a structured review template within 12 months of diagnosis; this also covers patients who have been diagnosed within the last 24 months.

Patients who are diagnosed with cancer should also be offered the opportunity to have a discussion to find out about the support they can expect from their GP and wider practice



team. This should occur within three months of diagnosis and will apply to anyone diagnosed within the last 12 months.

During October 2021, the Alliance's Living With and Beyond programme team will be sending updated Cancer Care Review resource packs to practices. The packs will include further detail on the changes and a number of useful resources which could help to improve the quality of reviews.

For further information, contact the Living With and Beyond Cancer Project Officer, Karen Lindley, on [karenlindley@nhs.net](mailto:karenlindley@nhs.net)

### **Roll out of the Cancer Quality of Life Survey to all tumour sites in October 2021**

After September 2020's successful launch of the NHS England Cancer Quality of Life Survey, which was initially shared with a sample of patients 18 months post-diagnosis, the survey is now being rolled out to patients diagnosed with all types of cancer so they are also able to share views on how a diagnosis can impact someone's life.

Carrying out the survey will capture the views of patients across Humber, Coast and Vale, help to evaluate where care is working well or not so well, and assist in determining where new services may be needed.

Further information on the Cancer Quality of Life survey can be found at [www.CancerQoL.england.nhs.uk](http://www.CancerQoL.england.nhs.uk)

### **The National COVID Cancer Antibody Survey**

The NHS has launched a new COVID antibody survey to assess antibody responses to the COVID-19 vaccines among cancer patients.

People aged 18 or over, who are living in England and have either been diagnosed with cancer in the last year or are currently receive cancer treatment are being asked to sign up to the survey. Those registered will receive a finger-prick blood to check for antibodies against COVID-19 in the blood.

Vaccination is an important strategy to protect us all from the effects of COVID-19, but there is emerging evidence that a small number of cancer patients may have lower levels of antibody response than the general population. By signing up for the survey, registered participants can help the NHS develop their understanding of what antibody levels mean for people with cancer. To find out more about the survey, [please click here](#).



### What Matters to You

The Humber Acute Services programme is designing future hospital services across the Humber.

Earlier this year, the programme team undertook an engagement exercise to find out what matters most to patients, staff, members of the public and local representatives when thinking about care in hospital. Nearly 4,000 people took part and you can use these links to read the [summary report](#) or the [full report](#).

As part of the programme's ongoing engagement, the survey has been reopened for more people to share what matters most to them. You can access the survey and let the programme team know [what matters to you](#).

### Keep up-to-date with news from across the Alliance

You can read the latest news on our website [here](#), or find us on social media:



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