



## Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance

### December 2021 Stakeholder Update

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

The Omicron variant has changed the playing field in terms of the Humber, Coast and Vale health and care system's response to Covid-19 but, as always, cancer remains a priority and the Alliance remains committed to addressing cancer waiting lists. As a system, we are working hard to ensure high quality care is maintained for those living with and beyond cancer across our region.

Cancer services remain open and initiatives, such as lung health checks and rapid diagnostic centres, are helping to diagnose cancer earlier and provide timely access to treatment. You can read more about these programmes of work below.

The accelerated roll out of the Covid-19 booster vaccine programme is key to managing the impact of Omicron and the Alliance is working with colleagues across the Humber, Coast and Vale integrated care system (ICS) to support uptake. It is incredibly important for people with cancer to get a booster as the NHS Covid-19 vaccination remains the best protection against the virus.

I'd like to take this opportunity to announce that I have been appointed as the Director of the Humber, Coast and Vale Health and Care Partnership's (ICS) Community Health and Care Provider Collaborative.

In accepting this new role it was important to me to remain in the Humber, Coast and Vale integrated care system and I look forward to working closely with the Cancer Alliance and our other partners to ensure cancer remains a high priority for our region.

I commenced this new role earlier this month but remain involved in the day-to-day leadership of the Cancer Alliance and will continue to do so until such a time that the new director is in post. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce that Simon Cox has been [appointed as the new Cancer Alliance Director](#) and will commence in the role in February 2022.

Simon brings a wealth of experience in system working having served as the Director of Acute Commissioning at North Yorkshire Clinical Commissioning Group since January 2019. Prior to that he spent several years serving as Chief Officer of NHS Scarborough Clinical Commissioning Group. I'll sure you'll join me in congratulating Simon on his new role.

I'd like to thank all staff working in cancer services across Humber, Coast and Vale for their continued dedication to providing the best possible care and outcomes, despite the ongoing challenges presented by Covid-19.



## Awareness and Early Diagnosis

### Targeted Lung Health Checks

Lung health checks continue to be delivered in Hull using telephone assessments. Any participants meeting the criteria for a CT scan are invited to attend a mobile unit at Lidl supermarket, Hessle Road. The mobile unit will move to North Point Shopping Centre, Bransholme, in early 2022 and the service will then begin to invite eligible participants from north Hull. [Find out more](#)

Following on from the success of lung health checks in Hull, which is helping to diagnose lung cancer and other respiratory diseases at an early stage, the Alliance is pleased to announce it has secured funding to [introduce the programme in North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire](#).

The Alliance will be supporting colleagues to deliver the next phase of lung health checks and recently [hosted a stakeholder event](#) to share key learnings from Hull.

### Cancer Champion Programme

The Alliance has continued to raise awareness of cancer by delivering [Cancer Champion training](#) to members of the public. As well as delivering virtual cancer awareness sessions, the Cancer Champion team has attended community events such as the Peel Street Project's 'Women's only Bazaar' event held at Spring Bank Community Centre in Hull, and the Humber All Nations Alliance Fashion and Cultural show at Hull Minster.

In response to recent Government guidelines, all face-to-face sessions have now been rescheduled and/or will take place online. [View the Cancer Champion training schedule](#).

## Diagnostics

### Rapid Diagnostic Centres

Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) pathways are identified as an important part of Covid-19 recovery and the wider NHS Long Term Plan ambition of delivering faster and earlier diagnosis for people living with cancer.

Now in its third year, the RDC programme provides non-specific symptom pathways across 80% of Humber, Coast and Vale. There are also six site-specific pathways under development, with the majority expected to be live by the end of 2021/22.

The programme also supports hospital trusts to meet the [Faster Diagnostic Standard](#), which aims to ensure at least 75% of patients referred for suspected cancer find out whether they have cancer within 28 days.

### Endoscopy

Work is under way to develop the best model for an Endoscopy Training Academy for Humber, Coast and Vale, which will improve access to training and development for a range of professionals across



the endoscopy pathway. This will help to ensure a sustainable workforce in future with a positive impact on staff and patient experience of services.

Colon Capsule endoscopy, a new imaging technology which sees patients swallow a miniature camera no bigger than a pill, continues to be [trials at York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#).

## Treatment and Pathways

Upper Gastrointestinal (GI), Lung, Prostate and Lower GI Clinical Delivery Group meetings have recently taken place and continue to focus on Multi-Disciplinary Team streamlining, which make best use of clinical and diagnostic time, and using [timed cancer pathways](#) to implement Faster Diagnostic Standards, which will help to improve patient experience by reducing diagnostic waiting times.

The Lower GI clinical delivery group are also working to progress the use of [Faecal Immunochemical Test \(FIT\)](#) as a test to guide the management of individuals who present with symptoms of bowel cancer. To help improve uptake of FIT, local community nursing teams are giving out FIT tests to house bound patients who need a test as part of their colorectal two week wait referral.

## Living With and Beyond Cancer

### Personalised stratified follow up

The Living With and Beyond Cancer programme is continuing to support hospital trusts to develop [personalised stratified follow up pathways \(PSFU\)](#). Good progress is being made with the following tumour sites having PSFU either in place or under development:

	PSFUs in place or being implemented	PSFUs under development
Hull University Hospitals NHS Trust	Breast, colorectal and haematological	Prostate and lung
York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Breast, colorectal and endometrial for low risk patients	Prostate, lung and sarcoma for low risk patients
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust	Breast and colorectal	Prostate and lung

### Breast pain clinics

Breast pain clinics, which could help to decrease the number of patients on a two-week wait pathway improve waiting times for people with suspected breast cancer, continue to be developed in areas served by Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Foundation Trust and York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The community-based clinics are expected to launch in Spring 2022.



### Mental health passport

Are you treating and supporting someone struggling with their mental health condition who is affected by cancer? A 'Passport to my Health and Wellbeing' has been developed to support patients share important information with healthcare professionals and their wider support network. [Find out more](#)

## Public and Patient Engagement

### Quality of Life Survey

The first set of results for the [Cancer Quality of Life Survey](#) have been released. The Humber, Coast and Vale findings (as well as the national results) are encouraging as they suggest that most people are experiencing a relatively good quality of life 18 months after diagnosis, however, there is an opportunity to reduce the gap in scores between those with a cancer diagnosis and the general population. [Find out more](#)

### Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2021

Patients treated for cancer who left hospital in April-June 2021 are currently being invited to take part in the national Cancer Patient Experience survey.

To ensure the results fully represent our population, the Alliance would appreciate its partners support in encouraging uptake of the survey. [Find out more about the survey](#)

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