



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

### **February 2021 Stakeholder Update**

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

We are pleased to see that we are now recovering from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wave of COVID and spring is just around the corner! On Monday afternoon, the Prime Minister set out the national road map that will help us restore what we hope will be a much more normal life, albeit with some restrictions, so we absolutely welcome this. If all goes to plan, we could see a great deal, if not all, of the restrictions being removed by the summer.

COVID-19 and recovery, however, is still very much on our agenda and, as an Alliance, we have a clear focus on our priorities and how we are going to work across our system to address this for the benefit of our patients and to diminish inequalities caused by the pandemic.

In the following update, you'll find details of what we are working on to ensure the provision of cancer services for our local communities and beyond.

There is a great deal to report and it's important to acknowledge how this will support us in the short, medium and longer term. Our work with Primary Care and looking at alternative pathways and innovations is key. With the continued work in primary care via our Cancer Champions team to help support us with reaching those 'hidden' communities that we know have not presented through the pandemic.

The further development and continued roll-out of our Rapid Diagnostic Centres will be crucial to supporting the diagnostic backlog. The Alliance is collaborating on further innovation, such as Artificial Intelligence to support reporting of mammograms, again working differently to support our system partners with a clear focus on what we need to do next year.

The key to this will be the data and intelligence that we have access to. On that point, we would like to welcome Jamie Gourley to the Alliance. Jamie joined us this month and is supporting us with oversight and performance of what we deliver and what difference this will make to us all.

#### **Cancer Alliance System Board**

The Cancer Alliance System Board took place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. John Hancock provided the group with oversight and assurance in relation to the restoration of cancer



services and the group heard an update on the system-wide approach to phase four planning and health inequalities.

Included in the plans for recovery and restoration is a clear focus on addressing health inequalities. The group discussed targeted actions to make best use of resources, support two week wait referrals, and improve diagnostic pathways that will support the timely delivery of treatment for patients across Humber, Coast and Vale.

The group also discussed the work taking place to deliver phase two of FIT, develop Community Diagnostic Hubs and Restart Lung Health Checks in Hull.

## **Awareness and Early Diagnosis**

### **GatewayC webinar for Primary Care: Headache or Brain Tumour**

GatewayC, the online platform for cancer learning, is hosting a new webinar for Primary Care professionals.

The free session, which is happening on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm, will focus on brain tumours, how the symptoms differ from more common headaches and the impact of COVID-19 on the diagnosis and treatment of brain tumours.

The session will also be joined by a number of speakers, Including Consultant Clinical Oncologist, Dr Catherine McBain, Consultant Neurologist, Dr Rajiv Mohanraj, and Gateway C GP Lead and Cancer Research UK GP, Dr Sarah Taylor.

Find out more about the session and [sign up here](#).

### **Help Us Help You – Lung Cancer Focus**

Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance is supporting the next phase of the NHS #HelpUsHelpYou campaign, focusing on lung cancer.

The campaign aims to raise awareness of the key symptom of lung cancer, a cough that lasts for three weeks or more, and will encourage those experiencing this symptom who have tested negative for COVID-19 to contact their GP practice.

In addition, the Help Us Help You campaign seeks to address the barriers deterring patients from accessing NHS services and reminds the public that the NHS is here for them and can see them safely. The Alliance has created four videos to highlight the safety measure that have been put in place across Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, York Teaching



Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust, which we'd encourage you to share.

Please [click here](#) to view the videos.

### Cancer Champions

Our virtual Cancer Champion Awareness Sessions continue to be delivered to organisations, schools/colleges, and members of the public. As some time has passed since many attended, an exciting new refresher course has been developed

The purposes of the refresher session are to remind Cancer Champions of the common signs and symptoms of cancer, to provide an update on national cancer screening programmes, and to find out more about how Cancer Champions have used their cancer knowledge since attending a session. It's also an opportunity for these attendees to ask questions and receive guidance and support, should they need it.

On Thursday 25 February, 90 people attended the sessions and we have already received a large amount of positive feedback and some stories of how the Cancer Champion programme has directly led to earlier diagnoses of cancer.

As the sessions were so popular, more dates have been added and are already being signed up to.

For further information about Cancer Champions, please [click here](#).

### Lung Health Checks

Preparations are still underway with Alliance partners for the re-start of the Lung Health Check service. We have closely monitored activity and it is hoped that, if levels of COVID-19 continue to fall, an announcement can be made in the next few weeks with a date for the recommencement of the service.

We will share further information on the status of the Lung Health Check programme in later updates.

### Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Group

The Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Group has merged with the GP Leads Group, with the first meeting scheduled for next month. It will bring commissioners, GP Leads and Cancer Research UK together to take the programme forward, supporting Primary Care



Networks with implementation of the Primary Care DES, increasing the uptake of cervical screening, and addressing health inequalities.

The York Cancer Screening meeting is on track to become the Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Screening meeting in March. Terms of Reference have been reviewed and future agendas will reflect the wider membership. This will allow a collective view of screening across the region and support the work of the Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Group and the PHE Screening Programmes in addressing inequalities.

## Diagnostics

### NHS Cancer Programme Report

The NHS Cancer Programme has released its quarter three report, which summarises key milestones from April 2020 up to December.

Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance is pleased to be spotlighted for its development of Rapid Diagnostic Centres during the pandemic.

To view the report, [click here](#).

### Rapid Diagnostic Centres

Rapid Diagnostic Centres continue to be rolled out nationally by NHS England and NHS Improvement as part of both the Long Term Plan and COVID-19 recovery.

In January, the Alliance saw the successful launch of a Rapid Diagnostic Centre in Scarborough, now covering all Primary Care Networks in the York locality. As a result, GPs in Scarborough have been provided with a streamlined pathway for patients with vague symptoms, which can often be challenging to diagnose.

Plans for a Rapid Diagnostic Centre within the Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust patch are being developed in collaboration with the Alliance and are currently awaiting approval.

### Community Diagnostic Hubs

We are moving forward with the development of a Community Diagnostic Hub in the Humber, Coast and Vale area.

Key stakeholders have been invited to an upcoming meeting to discuss priorities for the launch of local Hubs and what we need to do to move forward.



The creation of Community Diagnostic Hubs will ease the burden at hospital sites, whilst providing patients with easier access to a 'one stop' diagnostic service. These hubs will also support in earlier detection of cancer.

## **Innovation**

After application and approval in the first phase of an AI bid for Mammography, the Alliance is currently in the process of putting together a submission for the second phase. This work is being carried out not only with colleagues across the region, but with those in Leeds and our international colleagues, too.

## **Diagnostic Board**

On Wednesday 10th February, the ICS held its first Diagnostic Board meeting. Discussion points included the creation and delivery of Community Diagnostic Hubs, the Diagnostics Plan, priorities for the 2021/22 work programme, Rapid Diagnostic Centres, workforce planning, capacity and demand and Governance.

With colleagues from Primary and Secondary Care, Commissioning, and the ICS, it was a successful discussion and we now have, albeit in early stages, direction to move the Diagnostic programme forward.

## **Treatment and Pathways**

### **Skin Pathway – Teledermatology**

Due to current Skin pathway pressures, NHSE recently uploaded a teledermatology roadmap that set out what all systems can do to optimise teledermatology triage. Our Alliance was asked to scope current HCV practice against the national roadmap steps.

We are now working with key stakeholders to introduce Teledermatology in Hull and East Riding. Teledermatology, which uses static digital images to triage, diagnose, monitor and assess skin conditions without the patient being physically present, will help to safely manage the high number of skin referrals being received.

The scoping exercise has also identified an opportunity to develop a new clinical delivery group, which could help to improve the skin pathway across Humber, Coast and Vale.

More information will follow in further updates.

## **Nursing**



On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February, a meeting was held to bring together Lead Cancer Nurses across the North East and Yorkshire to explore potential collaborative opportunities, particularly with respect to the pipeline and development of Cancer Nurse Specialists.

Key themes discussed at the meeting included placements for Pre-Registration Nurses, Post-Registration, development of the Cancer Nurse Specialist role, needs-based competencies, succession planning and more.

## **Living With and Beyond Cancer**

### **Cancer Support Group 'Share and Learn' Event**

After receiving positive feedback from our first event, the Alliance is pleased to be hosting its second 'Share and Learn' for local cancer support group representatives.

Taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> March, the event will provide group representatives with an opportunity to share experiences with other group leaders, pose questions to the Cancer Alliance, and hear about support available to groups.

Jason Feavers, Volunteer Ambassador at 5K Your Way Move Against Cancer and Gemma from York & Scarborough Hospitals Cancer Information and Support will be joining us to offer tips and discuss the support they can offer to local groups.

## **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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