



Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance

September 2020 Stakeholder Update

A message from Yvonne Elliott, Managing Director

As we continue to respond to COVID-19, the safety and wellbeing of staff and patients continues to be our priority. We have worked with partner organisations to develop clear phase 3 plans for restoring cancer services across the Humber, Coast and Vale region and our ambition to deliver improved outcomes for patients remains unchanged.

It has been great to see examples of system wide collaboration and strong partnership working throughout our response to the pandemic, some of which are highlighted in this update, and I would like to thank all the staff who have worked tirelessly to support cancer services and patients during COVID-19.

Awareness and Early Diagnosis

Primary Care

A Primary Care Strategy and Delivery Group has been established to support emerging Primary Care Networks to implement the Primary Care DES. The group is chaired by the Cancer Alliance Cancer Research UK (CRUK) GP Lead, Dr Dan Cottingham and, working with CCG and CRUK colleagues, the focus of the work this year will be to support an increase in cervical screening uptake, identify and address inequalities, strengthen two week wait referral pathways into secondary care and the development of Protected Time for Learning material for GPs.

Lung Health Checks

The Alliance was the first area in the country to launch its community based NHS Targeted Lung Health Check programme in Hull as one of ten national pilot sites.

The service started on 27 January 2020 and ran for five weeks until it was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic on 16 March. During that time the service welcomed 848 participants, 485 of whom received a CT scan in the state of the art scanner housed in an adjoining mobile unit. The service was provided in the community with the mobile units sited at Lidl car park on Hessle Road, Hull.

In the short space of time that the service was running, it has helped to identify a number of cancers at an early stage, when treatment is optimal, and over 100 participants were referred to stop smoking services.



The Cancer Alliance team are working with partner organisations and are hoping to recommence the service in the near future.

Cancer Champions

In August 2020, the Cancer Champions team held their first virtual awareness sessions via Microsoft Teams.

The training, which raises awareness of the early signs and symptoms of cancer, promotes uptake of national screening and encourages early detection, is 90 minutes in length and the team have received positive feedback from the 15 sessions delivered so far.

The sessions are free, interactive and have informative video content embedded to support the delivery of key messages. For more information and to sign up for a session, please visit: <https://hvcanceralliance.org.uk/cancerchampions/>

Diagnostics

Nationally, over the last few months, there has been a focus on the restoration of diagnostic services and Adapt and Adopt guides for endoscopy and CT/MR have been shared. These guides have helped to identify high impact actions that will support recovery and to begin to understand the difference each action will make.

For endoscopy, actions have focussed on: increasing the number of lists available within services by extending services in the evening and weekends where possible, improving prioritisation and vetting processes, reviewing referral protocols, investigating opportunities to use alternative procedures and using Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) alongside two week wait (2WW) referrals. The Alliance has also recently hosted two workshops where good practice has been shared between organisations to allow for a more streamlined approach across the region in the above processes.

For imaging, the Cancer Alliance is exploring a number of areas including: demand management, referral and vetting processes and maximising use of existing equipment. As part of this work, the Alliance are planning an imaging workshop for early November.

Some capital funding has been made available to support service recovery with endoscopy services in particular benefitting from investment in new and additional equipment to enable increased activity.



The Alliance continue to work with Health Education England to develop aspirations for workforce development for imaging and endoscopy services in the short, medium and longer term and this includes: improved training and supervision including development of on line and virtual training opportunities, including in specialist areas and paediatrics, development of innovative roles and educator and clinical leadership roles.

The first scoping meeting relating to the development of Community Diagnostic Hubs has been held. Community Diagnostic Hubs will support separation of acute and elective activity for tests including MR, CT, endoscopy, ultrasound and x-ray. The Alliance is working with stakeholders to identify the pressure areas within diagnostics that can benefit the most from this model of delivery and to begin to identify possible locations that will be accessible for patients and staff. This work is linked to the discussions about delivery of diagnostic services at PCN/CCG level.

Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) services have continued to operate during COVID with modifications to ensure patient safety. By the end of 2020-21, it is hoped that almost 80% of the HCV population will have access to an RDC for any serious non-specific symptoms, and the Alliance also aims to start work on implementing the RDC approach across site specific pathways including upper GI, lower GI, lung and malignancy of unknown origin.

Teams are participating in work to shape the national evaluation process and the York service has received praise for their gold standard approach to monitoring patient experience.

Treatment and Pathways

FIT pathway for Primary Care

The commencement of a lower GI pathway redesign, which introduces FIT as a standardised part of the 2WW referral pathway across Humber, Coast and Vale, will begin on 1 October 2020.

With the onset of COVID-19, there was significant reduction in the numbers of 2WW referrals. However, as patients continue to develop urgent and non-urgent symptoms, it has become rapidly clear to secondary care providers that systems will experience referral backlogs.

Of all the 2WW pathways, lower GI has been most impacted by COVID-19, due to the need for colonoscopies. By introducing FIT as a standardised part of the 2WW referral pathway for lower GI, partners can risk assess and make informed decisions about the diagnostic tests that are required. This triage process is in line with latest NHSE guidance.



Clinical Delivery Groups

Clinical Delivery Groups (CDGs) will recommence from October, with the first Lower GI meeting scheduled for Monday 5 October.

In order to move forward quickly to streamline pathways across the region and support phase 3 recovery, CDGs will play an important role in ensuring we are utilising our resources appropriately.

Each CDG will include a focus on RAPID pathways, MDT streamlining and standards of care, and by strengthening our partnerships, we can direct necessary support to each footprint and ensure equity for patients across the region.

Living With and Beyond Cancer

Personalised Stratified Follow up pathways

The Alliance is delighted to announce that Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (HUTH), North Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust (NLAG) and York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (YTHFT) met the national target to implement personalised stratified follow up (PSFU) pathways for breast cancer by March 2020.

This supports appropriate patients post treatment to self-manage their condition by:

- Ensuring that they are aware of signs and symptoms to look out for
- Guaranteeing timely access to professionals if they have any concerns
- Offering regular surveillance tests, scans etc

HUTH and YTHFT have also both successfully implemented PSFU pathways for colorectal cancer, and all three trusts are working with the Alliance to develop PSFU pathways for prostate cancer.

Cancer Care Review Audit

Cancer Care Reviews gives patients an opportunity to discuss their condition and any concerns they may have and where appropriate be referred to other services or signposted to support. All patients with a diagnosis of cancer should be offered a Cancer Care Review with their GP or practice nurse within six months of diagnosis.

In 2018 the Living With and Beyond Cancer programme developed a pack to assist primary cancer practices across Humber, Coast and Vale to offer high quality reviews.

An audit has been undertaken to learn more about the content included, who completes them, if a template is used and if so, which etc. 62 practices from across completed the



survey. The Living With and Beyond Cancer Programme will be using the information gained from the audit to offer support to primary care practices to deliver Cancer Care Reviews as effectively as possible.

Quality of Life Survey

Many of those diagnosed with cancer express the view that quality of life is very important post treatment but little information or data about this has been collected to date. However NHS England have now launched the national Quality of Life Survey to look into this.

From the beginning of September 2020, 10% of patients who were diagnosed with breast, colorectal or prostate cancer 18 months previously have been invited to complete the Quality of Life survey. This will be extended to all patients regardless of tumour type from December 2020. The findings will be used to understand more about the patient experience going forward and seek to address any particular themes.

More information can be found at www.CancerQoL.england.nhs.uk

Health and Well-being Support

The Living With and Beyond Cancer Team have been updating information about health and well-being support groups for people living with or beyond cancer on the [Cancer Alliance website](#). While some are not able to operate in their usual way due to covid restrictions, many are offering support in different ways.

If you are aware of a group that is not currently listed, please get in touch with Karen Lindley at Karenlindley@nhs.net who will be happy to help.

The Living With and Beyond Cancer Team has also linked up with the national [Cancer Care Map](#). This aims to enable people from across the country to find out what support is available in their area and may be of particular interest for those who maybe live towards the border of Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance area.

National Cancer Patient Experience Survey

The results of the 2019 National Cancer Patient Experience Survey are now available to view on the Cancer Alliance [website](#).

The National Cancer Patient Experience survey 2019 is undertaken by Picker on behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement, and is designed to monitor national progress on cancer care and to provide information to drive local quality improvements.

In terms of overall NHS care, patients were asked to rate their experience of care on a scale of zero (very poor) to 10 (very good). Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance scored 8.8 on



this question and nationally; the results reveal that overall experience is rated at its highest ever level with a patient average rating of 8.81 out of 10.

Help Us Help You Campaign

The Cancer Alliance is supporting a national 'help us help you' campaign by encouraging anyone with concerning symptoms to contact their GP and reassuring patients that cancer services are being provided in an environment and manner that is safe.

The Alliance has commissioned virtual walkthrough videos for HUTH, YTFHT and NLAG to highlight the safety measures that have been put in place to ensure staff and patient safety during the coronavirus pandemic.

[Click here](#) to visit an online hub, which provides details on what to do if you're worried about symptoms, what to expect when attending an appointment, experiences of people who've recently accessed NHS services and information on where to turn for support.

Get Involved

Humber, Coast and Vale Cancer Alliance are committed to ensuring that the voices of people affected by cancer are at the heart of service improvements.

There are currently two opportunities for people in the Humber, Coast and Vale region, who have lived experiences of cancer services, to get involved in the work of Alliance and the NHS England and Improvement National Cancer Programme.

To find out more, please visit: hvcanceralliance.org.uk/get-involved-2

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:

 [@HVCancer](https://twitter.com/HVCancer)

 [@HVCancerAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/HVCancerAlliance).