

West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA)

30th September 2024

Board Briefing Note

For the attention of WMCA Board Members, Accountable Officers, CEOs, Cancer Managers and Cancer Leads in ICB and provider organisations:

The WMCA Board met face to face on Monday 30th September 2024 to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in the WMCA. The meeting was chaired by Professor Andy Hardy, CEO of University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW). The Board had representation from all West Midlands Integrated Care Systems (ICSs). It also has representatives from Specialised Commissioning, Screening, Healthwatch, Macmillan and patient representation.

OPERATION, RECOVERY AND PERFORMANCE

Screening Update:

As of September 2024, the three cancer screening programmes overall continue to be delivered in line with the national programme standards and within the required programme thresholds. Where there is any local variation, this is being addressed at individual programmes/provider's level.

Bowel Cancer Screening Summary

All centres have commenced and or planning to commence the remaining age extension cohorts for age fifty-two and age fifty. WMCA are awaiting confirmation of the FIT@ 80 pilot applications. The centres that have expressed an interest are Hereford and Worcester and Wolverhampton and Dudley.

Breast Screening Summary

All West Midlands Breast Screening Services are within required round length. Coverage and uptake continues to report an improved position in performance month on month.

Cervical Screening Summary

There are no reported concerns regarding RWT Laboratory Turn-Around-Times and work is being reviewed nationally regarding self-sampling. Colposcopy continues to be monitored with some reported challenges in relation to workforce capacity, where this is applicable, these have been highlighted via the NHSE Internal Review System Meetings and with ICBs.

Cancer Standards:

28-day Faster Diagnosis - July 2024 data shows that the West Midlands performance is at 76% which is 0.8% drop from the previous month. There has been variation both between providers and tumour types.

31-day Treatment standard - delivery of this standard is getting more focus nationally. WMCA performance during July was 91.2%. Variation exists between West Midlands Trusts and work is on-going to identify the greatest areas of focus for support to ensure performance improvements are made.

62-day referral to treatment – The interim national target for this standard is 70% and WMCA July performance was 61.8%. Intensive work is ongoing at WMCA to support West Midlands Trusts in improving cancer waiting time performance.

PROGRAMMES UPDATE:

WMCA programme team cover the three pillars of Early Diagnosis, Operational Performance & Improvement and Treatment & Care. A presentation was given on overall programmes and key risks. For further details contact debra.palmer2@nhs.net.

Early Diagnosis – One of the aims of the national cancer programme is for 75% of cancers to be diagnosed at stages I or II by 2028. An update was given showing data and a proposed waterfall chart to support each system to develop trajectories to meet the required standard. For more information contact harvir.singh@nhs.net

Post Menopausal Bleeding Pathway – This pathway was presented for information only as some additional consultation and review needed for the final pathway. For more information contact kerry.sirrell@nhs.net

Gynaecology Operational Delivery Network (ODN)– An update was given on the work of the ODN and an audit carried out comparing CA125 requests (blood test that may indicate ovarian cancer) made by GP practices. For more information contact eden.tagg@uhnm.nhs.uk

WMCA Finance Report:

A report was presented to the board detailing allocations and spend for 2024/2025. For more information contact bhavesesh.patel12@nhs.net

Patient and Public engagement:

An update was given on the approach and strategy for patient engagement including recruiting more patient advocates for the Alliance and increasing people from diverse backgrounds to better represent the population of the West Midlands. For more information contact jillian.guild1@nhs.net

CPES 2023 results:

An update was given to the board on the results for the 2023 Cancer Patient Experience Survey. For more information contact carolyn.parker3@nhs.net

Review of WMCA Board and Governance:

Following the transfer of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance team out of NHS England it was agreed that there would be a review of governance. A range of stakeholders will be consulted with, and an update presented to the November 2024 Board meeting. To participate or for further information contact: jillian.guild1@nhs.net

WMCA Future Strategy:

The Board discussed the recent Darzi review, proposed ten-year plan and a proposal to develop a West Midlands Cancer Alliance strategy. The board agreed this as a piece of work. For further information contact: sarah.hughes25@nhs.net

Papers for Ratification:

The following papers were presented for ratification, and approved by Board members present:

- WMCA Tele-dermatology and Skin Cancer Guidelines
- WMCA SACT Guideline for the management of Diarrhoea

For further information contact: rwh-tr.wmcapmo@nhs.net

Patient Advocate Discussion:

The Board's patient representative raised a query around validation of patient appointments. It was agreed this would be discussed outside the meeting.

Feedback From ICS Cancer Boards:

Representatives from each ICB Cancer Board in attendance presented updates and identified challenges by exception for their areas.

Any Other Business:

No other business declared.

Future Board Meetings:

Date of next Board Meeting: The next meeting of West Midland Cancer Alliance will be on Wednesday 27th November 2024: 3pm – 5pm. This meeting will be held face-to-face only.

For further information please contact: Sarah Hughes, Managing Director, Midlands Cancer Alliances, email: sarah.hughes25@nhs.net, Telephone: 07876 869436.

Please find below a table showing you who your West Midlands Cancer Alliance ICB representatives are:

ICB	Cancer Alliance Board ICB Representatives
Coventry and Warwickshire	Amelia Godson / vacant Amelia.godson1@nhs.net
Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent	Gary Free / Helen Ashley gary.free@nhs.net / Helen.Ashley@uhnm.nhs.uk
Birmingham & Solihull	David Peake / Martin Richardson David.Peake@uhb.nhs.uk / Martin.richardson@uhb.nhs.uk
Hereford and Worcestershire	Mari Gay / Angus Thomson marigay@nhs.net / angus.thomson1@nhs.net
Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin	Sara Biffen / Maureen Wain s.biffen@nhs.net / Maureen.wain1@nhs.net
Black Country	Diane Wake / Paul Tulley d.wake@nhs.net / p.tulley@nhs.net