

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA)

11 May 2021

WMCA Board Briefing Note

For the attention of WMCA board members, accountable officers, CEOs, cancer managers and cancer leads in CCGs and trusts:

The West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) Board met on 11 May 2021 to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in the WMCA. The meeting was chaired by David Loughton CBE, CEO of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT). The Board has representation from the six West Midlands Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs)/Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) from both commissioning and provider organisations. It also has representatives from specialised commissioning, primary care, Public Health England, Health Education England, Healthwatch, Macmillan, Cancer Research UK and a patient advocate.

Actions from WMCA board meeting 23 March 2021:

- **Hospice Funding Update:** Belinda Dooley has provided an update for this meeting.
- **Funding 2020/2021 and Forward Planning:** Sarah Hughes has provided an update on funding and planning for 2021/22 in this meeting.
- **Digitalisation of Pathology:** WMCA advised that all signed contracts have been received.
- **Grail Programme & Proposal:** systems to identify leads for the GRAIL programme when requested
- **WMCA Deputy Chair:** Mari Gay is now deputy chair for WMCA
- **Radiology Training Place:** all to ask their systems to consider hosting trainees

Hospice Funding Update:

A detailed review of the financial effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on hospice funding is being undertaken. Hospice UK has been the main point of contact for hospices during this period. National grants have been available and hospice funding from STP's/ICS's is being overseen by executive teams. A more detailed update should be available via Hospice UK in November 2021. In the West Midlands several hospices joined forces to launch a new service to provide rapid and expert support to local people and their families at end of life.

Covid-19 Response Update:

A steady decline in the epi curve was reported, with an improving picture in Covid-related urgent/emergency care (UEC) and adult critical care (ACC) admissions and Covid-related ITU bed occupancy has reduced and is less than 1% (at the time of reporting). Public Health England (PHE) will be reviewing any cases of the Indian variant of Covid-19 in the Midlands.

Children's and Teenage and Young Adults (TYA) Operational Delivery Network (ODN):

Specifications for this ODN are in draft form, soon to be finalised and funds have been released to providers. The workplan is in development and job descriptions are ready for the recruitment process.

WMCA Performance Update:

WMCA has oversight of operational performance data which is reviewed by individual STP's/ICSs; it was noted that benchmarking performance is key in identifying areas where there may need to be more pathway support during the recovery of cancer services. However, the published performance data is 2-3 months old and therefore out of date during this recovery period. The restoration and recovery of cancer services is progressing.

WMCA Cancer Planning and Finance 2021/2022:

Funding to be deployed to continue to drive delivery of the NHS Long Term Plan ambitions for cancer with a need to ensure that it is targeted appropriately. Dedicated funding has been confirmed for this year to support delivery of:

- Rapid Diagnostic Centres
- Targeted Lung Health Checks
- Innovations – Cytosponge

Prostate Cancer Inequalities:

Response to the National Prostate Cancer Audit (NCPA) Short Report: Variation in the treatment of men with high-risk/locally advanced prostate cancer in England was presented to the board. In response to the short report, the Cancer Programme of Care set up an audit working group comprising clinical experts, Patient and Public Voice (PPV) and Prostate Cancer UK representation. The report provides a summary of the findings, actions taken and a set of proposals for discussion with Cancer Alliances Lead Clinicians.

Transformation Programme Update:

Living With and Beyond Cancer (LWBC): This report summarises the WMCA position with regards to the Living With and Beyond Cancer (LWBC) programme, indicates priorities for 2021/22 and highlights the current position in relation to implementation of Personalised Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) pathways for Breast, Colorectal and Prostate cancers and associated digital Remote Monitoring Systems (RMS). Work has already begun in developing gynaecology and haematology PSFU protocols and this work will be built upon for roll out to WMCA trusts by the end of 2022.

Rapid Review Breast Cancer Services including screening

The first rapid review task and finish group is focused on the 2-Week Wait (2WW) referral pathway for suspected breast cancer, and the inaugural meeting included representatives from across the East and West Midlands Cancer Alliances (EMCA/WMCA) to jointly identify issues and actions. Meetings will continue bi-weekly to identify clear actions to improve sustainable breast performance. In preparation for the next meeting, further benchmarking of potential solutions for recovery are being collated. These will be collectively reviewed and prioritised, identifying resources required to implement on a short, mid or long-term basis. Findings will be collated and presented to a joint East and West Midlands meeting in June 2021, with clear actions and any progress made in readiness for the final report to the Midlands Cancer Cell.

Innovation:

SBRI Application updates – three areas have been identified for funding:

- Breast - Rapid Access ultrasound system
- Prostate – TRexit procedure to detect cancer
- Head and Neck – telescopic referrals

Galleri (GRAIL) test Programme Update – Six STP's/ICSs have agreed to participate in the Galleri screening study from October 2021. A task and finish group has been formed to help to run the study. There are ongoing discussions regarding the referral process.

Midlands System Transformation and Recovery (STaR) Board – Cancer Workstream

STaR board are working on a plan to identify interventions to increase early diagnosis of lung, breast, bowel and cervical cancers in populations with a high proportion of cancers diagnosed at a late stage. The focus is on screening and early detection. This work is due to be completed in July 2021 and the STP's/ICS's were invited to input in the development of the dashboard.

For further information please contact Belinda Dooley, Head of West Midlands Cancer Alliance, email: bdooley@nhs.net, Telephone: 07811 489265.

Date of next Board Meeting

Tuesday 27 July 2021

Please find below a table showing you who your West Midlands Cancer Alliance STP Provider/CCG representatives are:

STP	Cancer Alliance Board representative STP Provider and CCG Representatives
Coventry and Warwickshire	Lydia Fresco/ Rachael Danter Lydia.Fresco@uhcw.nhs.uk rachael.danter@cwstp.uk
Staffordshire	Christopher Luscombe / Mark Seaton Christopher.Luscombe@uhnm.nhs.uk Mark.Seaton@northstaffs.nhs.uk
BSOL	David Peake / Joanne Tolley David.Peake@uhb.nhs.uk joanne.tolley3@nhs.net
Hereford & Worcestershire	Jon Barnes / Graham James / Mari Gay Jon.Barnes@wvt.nhs.uk Graham.James3@nhs.net marigay@nhs.net
Shropshire & Telford	Stephen McKew / Steven Trenchard Stephen.Mckew@nhs.net steve.trenchard@nhs.net
Black Country	Matthew Lewis / Paul Tulley Matthew.Lewis@walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk p.tulley@nhs.net