

West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA)

27th March 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 on 27 March 2024 to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in the WMCA. The meeting was chaired by Prof. David Loughton CBE, Group Chief Executive, Royal Wolverhampton and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trusts, and Chair of the WMCA Board. The Board had representation from five out of six West Midlands Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and their provider organisations. It also had representatives from Specialised Commissioning, Primary Care (PC), Public Health England (PHE), NHSE Workforce and Education Directorate (WTE) (formerly Health Education England), Healthwatch, Macmillan and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and Patient Representation.

OPERATION, RECOVERY AND PERFORMANCE:

Screening Update:

Stephanie Beaumont, Head of Commissioning & Operations (Public Health), NHS England, Midlands Region West provided an update. As of March 2024, the three cancer screening programmes continue to be delivered in line with national programme standards and within the required programme thresholds. Any exceptions are raised with providers and or ICBs.

62-day Recovery:

Sarah Hughes, Managing Director of West Midlands Cancer Alliance gave an update on the current position in relation to the 62-day position and 28-day faster diagnosis nationally and across the Midlands with a focus on organisations in Tier 1 and Tier 2. The West Midlands has made huge progress in reducing the 62-day cancer backlog and are on track to get the backlog to the position that was agreed at the beginning of the year. Good progress has been made on the Faster Diagnosis Standards in the West Midlands. Progress in both areas was noted and all teams were thanked for their efforts in achieving improvements. The focus for 2024/25 will be on improving the 62-day cancer performance position.

Midlands Cancer Alliance Cancer Waiting Times Dashboard:

Haydn Williams, Principal Data Analyst demonstrated the new [Midlands CWT Public Dashboard](#). The data is provided by NHS England based on information submitted by providers. The data can be filtered by alliance / provider and by cancer type. It was noted that this database would be a consistent source of CWT information and that its use across all systems was recommended.

TRANSFORMATION ITEMS:

Early diagnosis:

Cancer Pathway Analysis

Ruth Green and team from the Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) outlined the CSU's methodology for conducting cancer pathway reviews as part of their business intelligence gathering and analysis provision across the region. A joint approach where clinical and analytical teams work closely together was stated as key to effective delivery. As the CSU works in partnership with the ICB, primary care and acute provider cancer services, they have greater access to extensive data sources as well as input from clinical specialists. It was noted that their methodology can be replicated for other audits according to the needs of providers / ICBs.

Multi-cancer Early Detection Test (Grail/Galleri):

Ian Lowenhoff from Kings College London provided an update on activity during the first year of the Galleri trials in the West Midlands. Uptake at all trial locations across the region was shared. Concern regarding under-represented groups and the efforts being made to improve uptake were noted. No trial data is available for publication at this stage.

Treatment and Care:

Innovation Platform / Repository:

Joanne Mewis from Health Innovation West Midlands (HIWM) announced the partnership between HIWM and WMCA to support cancer innovation in the region. HIWM help businesses and innovators from the NHS to develop products, services, and systems for the NHS. They are looking to support cancer led innovations that will drive positive change across the various cancer specialist areas. The proposed pathway for submitting and accepting applications was noted.

WM Radiotherapy Network 2024-2025 Workplan:

Patricia Barnett, Manager, West Midlands Radiotherapy Operational Development Network, outlined the network's approved workplan for 2024-25. The critical role of radiotherapy in curative and palliative care was highlighted in the context of the changing commissioning landscape, the complexity of service delivery, ongoing workforce challenges, and limited funding. It was noted that the priorities for 2024-25 include improving patient access and experience, workforce planning, reducing variation in the quality of care, and equipment utilisation. More opportunities are being considered for stakeholder engagement and to raise the profile of Radiotherapy services and careers in the region.

BUSINESS ITEM:

WMCA Planning:

Sarah Hughes provided a progress update on the Cancer Transformation Planning 2024/2025: WMCA Level Deliverables. ICBs have reviewed the draft delivery plans and have been submitting their high-level action plans to support implementation over the year. A key deliverable will be to support improvement in the faster diagnosis standard and 62-day cancer waiting times targets.

Any Other Business:

This was Prof. David Loughton's last meeting as Chair of the WMCA Board. David expressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the Board over the years. The Board thanked him for his long and loyal service and wished him well in his retirement.

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

Date of next Board Meeting: The next meeting of West Midland Cancer Alliance will be on **Wednesday 22nd May 2024: 9am – 11am via MS Teams.**

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	Rachael Danter / Gary Walton rachael.danter1@nhs.net / Gary.Walton@uhcw.nhs.uk
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