

West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA)

22nd May 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 22nd May 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 of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) and new chair of WMCA. The Board had representation from all six West Midlands Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). It also has representatives from Acute Providers, Specialised Commissioning, Primary Care (PC), NHS England Public Health England and Workforce and Education Directorate (WTE) (formerly Health Education England), Healthwatch, Macmillan and Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and Patient Representation.

Performance:

Sarah Hughes, Managing Director, West Midlands Cancer Alliance, presented the 62-day Recovery and Backlog update on the cancer waiting times standards and the measures in place to support the improvement of these sites, including the criteria set out by the national team, for the next refresh of tiering.

- **Addressing the Cancer Backlog** – the Midlands achieved the target set out to reduce the cancer backlog by the end of 2023/2024.
- **Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS):** Significant work has been done to increase FDS performance. In March this was 76.7% for the West Midlands, above the current target of 75% and on track for the increase to 77%.
- **62-day(combined) performance:** Priority focus for 2024/2025 will be on 62d which is the primary target for those who are diagnosed with cancer. 62-day performance for the West Midlands was the lowest in the country at 59.9%, below the target of 70%.

Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad (CVLP):

NHS England Cancer Programme presented their CVLP programme. They are working in partnership with Southampton Clinical Trials Unit (SCTU) to develop a platform for accelerating clinical trials with personalised cancer vaccine treatment. The aims are to:

- Accelerate development of cancer vaccines – working with industry partners
- Support recruitment into clinical trials
- Determine feasibility of vaccines within the NHS.

Board members were asked to support recruitment to trials, where relevant, across their organisations. For further details contact: Max Shen: max.shen@nhs.net

MDT Optimisation – Electronic MDT:

The Research & Development team at University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) over the last 5 years have developed a platform to support collaboration across MDT's, including access for Primary Care as part of the shared care record. A number of challenges have been identified when implementing the system within West Midlands Secondary Care Providers, due to the capacity to implement the system. In addition, the Somerset Cancer Registry (SCR) now includes some of the functions that EMDT would provide. It was agreed that further engagement is required to understand the current value of the EMDT programme and support for further implementation. WMCA to lead a review with invited stakeholders.

For further details contact: Debra Palmer debra.palmer2@nhs.net

Specialised Commissioning:

An update was provided by a representative of the Midlands Specialised Commissioning team. PET-CT demand and capacity modelling is ongoing, no major concerns have been identified. Full report will be going to the NHS England Midlands Access Board in June. Work is ongoing regarding finalising 2023/24 and 2024/25 contracts, as well as continued delegation of responsibilities to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). For further details contact: Laura Morris lauramorris3@nhs.net

WMCA End of Year Report 2023/2024:

West Midlands Cancer Alliance (WMCA) End of Year Report was presented, highlighting the achievements delivered to support operational improvement and earlier diagnosis. Some of the key highlights include:

- Significant investment in operational improvement, faster and earlier diagnosis of cancer
- Transfer of Cancer Alliance core team from NHS England to Royal Wolverhampton Hospital and expansion of the Cancer Alliance core team to support broader programme delivery.
- Robust governance and oversight developed
- Significantly improved data collection and analysis
- Improved position of Faster Diagnosis Standard – up to 77%
- Direct support to some Trusts for key challenged pathways
- Expansion of Targeted Lung Health Check Programme
- Infrastructure to support establishment of Teledermatology
- Targeted work on Liver and Lynch Syndrome

For further details contact: Debra Palmer debra.palmer2@nhs.net

West Midlands Cancer Alliance Finance Report 2023/2024:

2023/2024 Year end finance report was presented. Revised allocation for 2023/2024 was £36.8m which was fully committed by the host ICB to all West Midlands ICB's to deliver their cancer operational performance and transformation programmes. A remaining £3.3m was

deferred to 2024/2025 across three ICBs due to delays in recruitment and assurance provided that funding will be committed and spent for intended purposes.

For further details contact: WMCA PMO Team: rwh-tr.wmcapmo@nhs.net

WMCA 2024/2024 Planning:

Cancer Alliance plan for 2024/2025 was presented, highlighting key areas of focus for the forthcoming year. Operational performance and faster diagnosis continue to be a priority, specifically for the priority pathways Urology, Skin, Gynaecology, Lower GI, Breast & Head and Neck.

Early Diagnosis programmes continue to roll out and expand, including:

- Primary Care Programmes
- Targeted Lung Health Checks
- Liver Surveillance
- Pancreatic Cancer

Treatment and Care will have additional resource this year, focusing on:

- Treatment Variation
- Living With & Beyond Cancer
- Experience of Care

ICS Cancer Boards:

Feedback was received from each of the ICS Cancer Boards with updates and areas of challenge noted.

Workforce, Training & Education:

Workforce, Training & Education (WTE) update was presented showcasing the investment into regional and national initiatives, including Practice Educators, Chemotherapy nursing, Cancer Nurse Specialist, Care Navigators, Gateway C, ACCEnD and Advanced Clinical Practitioners. Fragile services were highlighted with four services were selected for targeted support: Breast Screening, Haematology, Stroke and Oncology.

For further details contact: Natasha Koerner natasha.koerner1@nhs.net

Patient Advocate Discussion:

Board member representing the patient voice updated the Board regarding concerns around Personalised Stratified Follow Up and delays with patients being able to refer themselves back into secondary care. It was agreed that the implementation of PSFU and the pathway roll out would be reviewed to ensure patients can access secondary care timely.

Papers for Ratification:

The Board were presented with the following paper for ratification, and these were approved by Board members present:

Updated National Guidelines for Acute Oncology which have been reviewed and endorsed by the Acute Oncology Expert Advisory Group. For further detail contact: Juliet Brown juliet.brown9@nhs.net

For further information please contact: Sarah Hughes, Managing Director, West 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, 17th July 2024 at 10am**. This meeting will take place in person.

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 & West Birmingham	Diane Wake / Paul Tulley d.wake@nhs.net / p.tulley@nhs.net