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West Midlands Cancer Alliance
Radiotherapy Expert Advisory Group Meeting

Held on: Friday 5 March 2021: 9am – 11am
At: Microsoft Teams

ACTION TRACKER & NOTES

Attendees		
Stephen West	SW	Chair, Head of Radiotherapy, Royal Wolverhampton Trust
Carolyn O'Donovan	CO	Deputy Chair, Radiotherapy Services Manager, University Hospital North Midlands
Paul Evans	PE	Head of Radiotherapy Physics, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital
Craig Edwards	CE	Head of Radiotherapy, University Hospital North Midlands
Louise Killey	LK	Radiotherapy Manager, Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital
Andrew Chan	AC	Consultant Clinical Oncologist, University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire
Abel Zachariah	AZ	Oncologist Radiotherapy Lead, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Bart Kurec	BK	Clinical Lead Oncologist, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Claire Bode	CB	Radiotherapy Manager, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
Gareth Baugh	GB	Physicist, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire
Mary O'Looney	MO	Radiotherapy Manager, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire
Graham Chalmers	GC	Head of Radiotherapy, University Hospitals Birmingham
Jane Worlding	JW	Consultant Oncologist, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Gareth Webster	GW	Head of Radiotherapy Physics, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals HNS Trust
Linda Farthing	LF	West Midlands Radiotherapy ODN Manager, University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire

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Rajanee Bhana	RB	Clinical Oncologist, University Hospital North Midlands
Rosemary Simmons	RS	Radiotherapy Service Manager, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Sally Dakin	SD	Quality Improvement Lead, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals HNS Trust
Paul Baker	PBa	Patient Advocate
Peter Buckle	PBu	Patient Advocate
Sue Jenkins	SJ	Patient Advocate
Juliet Brown	JB	Quality Improvement Facilitator, West Midlands Cancer Alliance
Caroline Sharp	CS	Business Administrator, West Midlands Cancer Alliance
Apologies		
Sundus Yahya	SY	Consultant Oncologist and Clinical Service Lead, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
Ravi Dandamudi	RD	Clinical Oncologist, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Tervinder Matharu	TM	Head of Radiotherapy Physics, Royal Wolverhampton Trust

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Lead
Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	The Chair welcomed all those in attendance at the meeting and noted apologies of those unable to attend. The Chair requested that any conflicts of interest be declared: inclusive of consultancies / direct employment; fee paid work; shareholdings; fellowship / trustees; non-personal interests; any other interests excluded from the afore mentioned. It is noted that no conflicts of interests were declared.		
Prostate Brachytherapy discussion	This item is in response to NHSE's request if trusts are happy to support a move towards brachytherapy boosts for prostate. This would potentially involve a large number of patients and additional workload for the four brachytherapy centres. Clinicians' thoughts needed on brachytherapy and hypo-fractionation, i.e. if overlap of patients etc. Issues / challenges explored: - lack of clinician time to devote to development of service; - SABR prostate seems to be superseding brachytherapy;		

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	- funding model to ensure equitable service; - need to quantify the number of eligible patients; - feasibility / return on investment in the long term; - resources / staffing requirements; - current demand and capacity; - potential pathway configuration / referrals - anticipated trials results – to inform development of service; - the future of the service. All agreed brachytherapy service is needed as an option for prostate cancer treatment despite being logistically challenging. Early engagement with Urology EAG to be arranged.	**Liaise with Urology EAG chair**	**JB/SW**
Minutes and actions of the last meeting dated Friday 5 February 2021	The Chair reviewed the minutes of the last meeting, all present agreed these as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. The Chair reviewed the actions from the last meeting, it is noted that all actions have been completed with the exception of the following amendments: - Job title for Andy Pointon - 'Deputy Head of Radiotherapy Physics'. - Revert to AC abbreviation for Andrew Chan throughout.		
Cancer Alliance Update	JB provided update. Workforce restoration and recovery funding – this has been paid over via STPs; a breakdown by trust along with terms and conditions will be issued in due course. NHS / SBRI Healthcare innovation funding meeting - funding is primarily for diagnostics therefore Radiotherapy unlikely to benefit. Cancer Hub – surgical referrals into the hub decreasing. Pressure on critical care services remains high despite COVID19 cases falling.	**Circulate funding breakdown / terms and conditions**	**JB**
Patient Advocates	Chair/Advocates meeting held 02.03.21. The following issues discussed: - pressures of the pandemic, how Radiotherapy services have been affected and plans for the future. SW acknowledged the challenges of supporting new		

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	developments (eg brachytherapy) while trying to keep services going during the pandemic. Efforts being made to restore services to pre-Covid levels in the coming months. - benefits of brachytherapy for patients - difficulties around NHS funding / finance systems and ways to address these for the benefit of patients - benefits of informing patients about long term or late effects at early stage of treatment and engagement with patients years later. PROMS work being undertaken where this can be further explored including what provisions are available for patients. Prostate treatment late effects discussed. There is a need to understand what services are available to address access issues. The prostate services and late effects were deliberated.	**Raise finance issue with WMCA**	**JB**
Directory of Services: • **Trust updates** • **Capacity/ Demand** • **Workforce** • **Covid Testing/ issue** • **SABR implementation**	**UHNM:** Capacity – currently steady, not as busy as before, there is enough capacity to cope. Workforce - 2 agency staff in; 6 vacancies; trying to get more agency staff to backfill. Testing - All patients being COVID19 tested prior to CT appointment (apart from emergencies) then 4 weeks later; all staff have had first vaccines and should have second by April. SABR – currently treating lung primary; working to begin treating lung oligomet. Bone & lymph nodes likely to start Sept. Getting RTTQA completed. Physics – struggling a bit with staffing with 3 of 9 staff currently off; dosimetry – 2 of 7.5 off or going; engineering vacancy. The apprentices are doing a good job supporting engineers. Medical – no issues. All clin oncs working; 1 x med onc leaving and 1 x off sick. **UHCW:** Capacity - current capacity is good.		

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	Testing – majority of staff have received their first COVID19 vaccination; most will receive second dose by end March. Some colleagues off self-isolating and some with COVID19. Physics - workforce is good, however, the head of engineering is due to leave soon. SABR - treated second lung oligomet patient and are continuing with lung primary patients. Some capital released from the SABR business case. RTTQA being resubmitted. Medical - workforce is good – all at work. No surge in activity, however, there has been in an increase in elderly advanced cancer. No upsurge in delayed diagnosis. **UHB:** Capacity – currently good, relatively quiet, increase in elderly advanced cancer and some patient groups. Workforce – recruiting oncologists; registrars returning to oncology from redeployment; radiography staffing fluctuating, some isolating. Equipment - order placed for a Flexitron unit. Physics - a few vacancies in the department - engineer and scientist; currently one engineer shielding; otherwise things stable. **Worcester:** Capacity – currently at 80%. Workforce - a gynae radiographer has been appointed to assist brachytherapy pathway; additional advanced training happening within the department. Testing – chemo-rad patients still being tested; all staff have had their first vaccination, second doses by mid-April. Physics – core team workforce is good; recruiting 1 x IT technician; gaps for trainees. SABR - currently receiving help from Bristol; submission made to RTTQA and awaiting results; business case not yet approved. Medical - clinical oncology vacancy; interviewing for medical oncologist **SATH:**		

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	Capacity - activity approx. 75%; large increase in palliative referrals. Workforce – challenging, some shielding and on maternity leave, resignation; some agency staff currently working within the department; will be recruiting shortly. Testing - all patients being tested; all staff have received their first vaccination. Physics - workforce is in a good place, full establishment. Hoping to introduce SpaceOar Hydrogel and should see first patient by April. SABR - progressing slowly. RTTQA etc—passed; expecting to be ready for lung by end March. Medical - workforce is good; things quiet currently. **RWT:** Capacity - current numbers are at approx. 65-70%. Surgery and diagnostics have opened up so demand likely to start increasing. Workforce - a few vacancies – recruiting a B5 and B7 SABR - business case is ready to be presented this month. Awaiting full RTTQA results, however hoping to be ready April. Testing - majority of staff are doing lateral flow testing; majority of staff have received their first vaccination. Physics - some vacancies, currently recruiting. Medical – some clinical oncologist vacancies. Locum recruited in Jan (gynae/lung pathways). LF said the region is doing well with SABR. Also that additional funding (£15k) has been secured for the region which should become available around April. Discussions had about the best use of the funds. All to email further ideas to LF.	**Email ideas to LF**	**All**
Work stream update: • **Protocols** • **PROMs**	LF gave an update on the protocols. The priority for RCR is Breast consensus, and H&N for some time this year, followed by Lung. RCR more in favour of a consensus document rather than a protocol. This won't cover all disease sites, therefore, LF suggests continuing with a regional protocol. Colorectal has been done; cervical and UGI approved; Prostate and H&N going out to wider consultant body. All protocols		

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	are being shared with respective EAGs to promote joined-up working. Protocols for agreement to be circulated for review ahead of May meeting. LF confirmed these have already been reviewed by the site-specific consultants and will therefore come to the EAG for ratification and confirmation that each service is adopting them locally. Patient governance and peer review – work done on audit tools and governance. LF arranging meeting to discuss this further. PROMs – LF arranging special meeting; nominations needed for this meeting.	**Circulate protocols for agreement** **Send nominations to LF.**	**LF** **All**
Covid-19 NICE Guideline for Radiotherapy	SW drew attention to the guide (previously circulated) and encouraged all to use it.		
Quality Improvement	SD updated QI vision statement shared with the group. The aim is for all services to adopt the statement and to feedback at future meetings how they are implementing it. A tracker of all QI objectives being worked on by each centre also shared; collaborative working and sharing of good practice encouraged. A virtual working group to be set up to take this forward; group to include one representative per centre nominated by service lead, and a patient advocate. The new statement and tracker to be circulated to the group; statement to be uploaded to Alliance website.	**Circulate information to service leads and coordinate working group**	**LF**
IRMER: Shared learning/ Document update	CO gave an update on the progress on the shared learning meeting. This meeting is being planned for May 2021.	**Set up IRMER shared learning meeting**	**CO/LF**
Any Other Business	LK discussed the specialised commissioning funding following the last NOG. Some trusts still not received this. Difficulty accessing the monies and the restricted timescale to use it were discussed. AZ requested additional peer review collaboration for SATH. Agreed for SATH to join UHNM / RWH discussions re provision of support for brain tumour services. AZ		

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	and RB to take forward.		
Date of Next Meeting	Date: Friday 7 May 2021 Time: 9:00-11:00 Location: Microsoft Teams		

Concerns	Pathway/Guidelines Signed Off
To be completed by Network Officer in attendance at meeting	