

The East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Briefing Note – 23 January 2023

For the attention of EMCA Board members, Accountable Officers, CEOs, Cancer Managers and Cancer leads in CCGs, ICSs, and trusts:

The East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board met on 23 January 2023 via MS Teams to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in the EMCA. The meeting was chaired by Richard Mitchell, CEO University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust. The Board has representation from the five East Midlands ICSs from both commissioning and provider organisations. It also has representatives from specialised commissioning, primary care, public health, Health Education England, Macmillan, and Cancer Research UK (CRUK). The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed contributions from all colleagues.

Elective Recovery Update

The Board was provided with an updated position on elective recovery. There has been a significant improvement in 62-day backlog, and this continues to decrease. Regionally, the Midlands has moved from having the highest backlog to third highest. Continued improvement of position has been seen at tiered trusts, with a notable decrease in January 2023, especially at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton.

Cancer Screening Update

The Board was presented with an up-to-date screening report as of January 2023. Improvement is noted for the breast cancer screening programme in Lincolnshire and the backlog continues to decrease. Regionally there has been a decrease in uptake for breast screening. There is ongoing work to reduce health inequalities within the breast screening programme. The postal strikes have had an impact on the Bowel Cancer Screening programme. A national incident meeting has been arranged with the screening hubs to further review. Bowel screening for 54-year-olds is to be rolled out from April 2023. The turnaround time for cervical screening has returned to 14 days for Derby. Surveillance programme for Lynch Syndrome will be implemented from April 2023.

East Midlands Cancer Alliance Performance Pack

Board members were appraised of the overall national, regional and provider picture. Overall position remains stable, however good progress against the FDS (faster diagnosis standard) is noted: regional FDS was 75% in November 2022. Improvements have been noted across the region and the aim is to achieve 85% by next year to further support recovery of the 62-day performance. Treatment capacity levels are a concern, and the East Midlands is one of the lowest performing regions nationally against the 31-day operational standard. Radiotherapy services are experiencing a sustained increase in demand and productivity is low.

Innovations and improvements in performance noted across EMCA. Systems to share best practice to enable consistency of approach across the region. Correlation of performance within a heat map to be shared at future Board meeting in March.

Cancer SROs and ICS Leads – individual updates

- Systems reporting increased pressure due to industrial action and winter pressures, resulting in a drop in performance within some tumour sites across systems due to capacity constraints.
- Challenges noted in diagnostics, particularly in PET scanning with regards CT capacity and ultrasound biopsy, working with systems, with support received from the independent sector.
- All systems focussed on backlog reduction, with particular attention being paid to those tumour sites occupying a large percentage of the overall backlog.
- Continued weekly support for tiered trusts (UHL – Tier 1, UHDB – Tier 2, ULHT – Tier 2).
- Significant impact on colorectal backlog seen in Lincolnshire with the introduction of the new Rapid Colorectal pathway and the adoption of the Golden patient model. Presentation given to all systems regarding the golden patient model to share best practice.
- 8/8 trusts now have live non-specific symptoms pathways with UHL going live in January 2023.

Overall, it was noted there has been progress within the past year with common performance impacting themes occurring but with plans to mitigate. EMCA is working with all systems to share best practice.

Planning Priorities Update 2023/2024

The Board were presented with the National Planning priorities report. The three key highlights were noted as below:

- Funding
- Timescales around planning and priorities.
- Targeted funding for programmes such as Targeted Lung Health Checks.

Targeted funding will be increased nationally from £148m to £180m, notification yet to be received for specific funding for programmes within Midlands. Awaiting confirmation around the targeted or the place-based funding. The service development funding (SDF) increasing from £12.4 million to £20.7 million both for next year and the following year, therefore it is anticipated that the funding is to be received for the next two years.

EMCA are identifying where funding needs to be applied across all alliance programmes. Additional funding and planning guidance to be released with a detailed alliance-level planning pack.

The national team produces the National Cancer Planning Guide. There will be an ask to continue to focus on recovery and operational improvement and to direct some of that additional funding in this direction to derive sustainable solutions. The key themes are:

- Roll out the best practice time pathways to become sustainable pathways
- Utilise current funding and develop those pathways going forward
- Improve data quality to drive priorities

EMCA are proposing to release funding for providers to recruit to dedicated project support to drive these priorities.

Cancer Workforce Development

The Board were provided with an updated report regarding workforce.

- New care navigator patient tracking apprenticeship pilot running this month, with more cohorts running throughout the year from February onwards.
- A new sonography level 6 apprenticeship which will be commencing in March.
- The aspirant cancer career and education development programme recently released and launched on 17 January, both for nurses and allied health professionals.
- A dashboard will support to target areas to receive further funding for the delivery of the programme. The aim is to expand the engagement across the ICSs, as well to contribute (especially around genomics) to support transformation and developing these capabilities and models.
- Health Education England (HEE) reviewing workforce priorities for next year, together with the funding to work in collaboration with the alliances.
- Future workforce plan is to focus on training and education associated with early diagnosis.

East Midlands Radiotherapy ODN - presentation

A presentation was shared with the Board regarding the East Midlands Radiotherapy Network. The key aims of the network is to improve access, experience of care, participation in clinical trials, reducing variation of quality and equipment utilisation. Network risks are regularly reviewed on the risk register. Workforce remains one of the greatest challenges, with an increase in capacity and demand.

Specific projects include roll out of SABR (stereotactic ablative radiotherapy) across the East Midlands, piloting and evaluating Vision software using alliance funding.

It was noted that NHS England is working with Health Education England (HEE) to link in with local universities to develop apprenticeships for students from local engineering departments, to improve uptake and transformation opportunities of roles within radiotherapy.

EMCA Transformation Programme Update

Highlight reports and programme updates were shared with the Board.

MDT ROSE programme details the MDT optimisation projects, which have been clinically led and are being rolled out across East Midlands for launching Q4 and into next year. Notably the Northamptonshire MDT programme has been implemented recently; evidence showing that it has reduced demand by 15 to 20% in referrals and the evaluation has been initiated through Academic Health Science Network (AHSN).

Four key Best Practice Timed Pathways within the East Midlands are delivering performance at or above the national average for FDS. It was noted that the prostate pathway needs specific support to improve the overall position.

EMCA Finance Update

For information, detailed finance discussions have taken place individually with each system, reporting via individual Cancer Boards to monitor and track the transformation funding and reporting.

Items for Information and Endorsement

For further information please contact:

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Date of next Board Meeting:

27 March 2023 @ 1pm via MS Teams

Please find below a table showing you who your EMCA ICS leads are:

Midlands ICSs	EMCA board representative ICS Leads
Leicestershire	Helen Mather helen.mather@leicestercityccg.nhs.uk
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