

East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Briefing Note – 27 March 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 27 March 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.

Patient Experience - Sam's Story

The Board watched Sam's short and immensely powerful digital story which highlighted the psychological impact the fear of recurrence of cancer can have on people's daily lives.

Elective Recovery Update

The Board was provided with an updated position on elective recovery for cancer treatment over 62 days. East Midlands overall continues to reduce the number of people waiting. Significant improvements continue at tiered trusts within lower gastro-intestinal and urological cancers at University Hospitals of Leicester, University Hospitals of Derby & Burton, and United Lincolnshire Hospitals.

East Midlands Cancer Alliance Performance Pack

Board members were appraised of the overall national, regional and provider picture. Overall demand is higher than pre-COVID levels and, although there have been increased levels of productivity, this does not always show in the constitutional standards. East Midlands faster diagnosis standard was 70% in Jan. 23. The aim is to achieve 85% by next year to support further recovery of the 62-day performance standard.

Pathology Network Overview Update

The Board was provided with a presentation on Midlands East 2 (ME2) Pathology Network which sits across seven ICBs, including the five in East Midlands. All pathology labs are to be digitally-enabled. Demand on histopathology services is significantly higher than surrounding areas. A Midlands histopathology forum has been set up. A baseline audit of diagnostics by tumour site will be undertaken and report back to ME2 in July 23.

Robotic Assisted Surgery

The Board was provided with an update by Specialised Commissioning who were undertaking a review of robotic assisted surgery (RAS). The Clinical Senate was reviewing the evidence base including non specialist RAS. Both pieces of work would inform a regional approach to commissioning for robotic surgery. EMCA board members are to be invited to a regional robotic strategy workshop. Any queries please contact - Laura Morris - lauramorris3@nhs.net

Specialised Commissioning - Services Reviews

The Board was informed of three reviews which Specialised Commissioning will be undertaking – oncology, cancer surgery and radiotherapy reviews. Oncology review will be across the Midlands at provider and tumour site level starting in early 23/24.

Cancer Workforce Development

The Board was provided with an updated report regarding workforce. A new patient tracking / care navigator apprenticeship has been launched with interest across the systems. Endoscopy academy training courses for admin and clerical competencies will be published 23/24. Pathology Practice Educator network events to help workforce planning being held. Any queries please contact workforce lead – Jane McCombe - jane.mccombe@hee.nhs.uk

Cancer SROs and ICS Leads – individual updates

The systems provided individual updates. Overall, positive progress noted across the five systems, with significant teamwork and very high-level support to maintain the services. Congratulations to the UHDB oncology team on recently winning the HSJ Partnership Award for the most effective contribution to improving cancer outcomes.

EMCA Planning Priorities Update 2023/2024

The Board was updated on planning priorities, with a final Alliance-level plan due for submission by mid-April. Priorities included operational performance especially faster diagnosis, early diagnosis, treatment variation and personalised care. Priority tumour sites are breast, colorectal, gynaecology, skin, and urology.

EMCA Transformation Programme Update

Highlight reports and programme updates were shared with the Board highlighting key points on faster diagnosis and best practise time pathway work, pulling together heat maps. Delivery progress on track for the end of this fiscal year.

As part of creating the new NHSE programme, there will soon be a formal agreement that Cancer Alliances will move out of the hosting arrangement in NHSE in 2023/24 to be hosted by another organisation.

EMCA Finance Update

All systems have finance governance systems in place at Board level to enable to monitor and track the transformation funding and reporting. Challenges around short-term transformation investment and longer-term continuity funding were discussed, and systems encouraged to plan on a 2-year basis with an exit strategy as funds are not to replace operational funding for services.

Cancer Screening Update

The Board was presented with an up-to-date screening report as of March 2023. National bowel screening media campaign ongoing. Bowel screening rolling out to 58-year-olds. Any backlogs in breast screening on plan to be cleared by end March 23.

Items for Information

For further information please contact:

Mike Ryan, Head of Cancer Alliance, michael.ryan@nhs.net; telephone 07783 815336

Date of next Board Meeting:

22 May 2023 @ 1pm via MS Teams

EMCA ICS leads contact details:

Midlands ICSs	EMCA board representative ICS Leads
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