

East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Cancer Board Briefing Note – 25 September 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 25 September 2023 in person and via MS Teams to review the work and progress of the partner organisations in EMCA. The meeting was chaired by Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive, UHL and Chair, East Midlands Cancer Alliance. The Board has representation from the five East Midlands ICSs across both commissioning and provider organisations. It also has representatives from Integrated Care Board (ICB) Leads and CEOs, Specialised Commissioning, primary care, public health, Workforce Training and Education (WTE), Macmillan, and Cancer Research UK (CRUK). The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed contributions from all colleagues.

EMCA Cancer Performance Pack – Sitrep Overview

Presentation of cancer performance given by Mike Ryan, Head of EMCA, reflecting July 2023 data across ICBs and Trusts and statutory cancer waiting time metrics.

Slides added at the back of the presentation refer to Faster Diagnosis Standard (FDS) and the segmentation of breaches by week. Mike Ryan updated the Board that some of the data is there, but there is further data collection and analysis to be completed to identify target areas for improvement to 31-day and 62-day at specific tumour sites for individual Trusts.

Cancer Waiting Times

Cancer waiting time data was shared with the Board and performance noted. Regarding 62-day performance, it was noted there are zero East Midlands Trusts identified in the top 20 of pressured Trusts nationally, with actions demonstrating impact and improved performance.

Faster diagnosis standard remains stable as a region but with variation between trusts of 68% - 85%.

It is recognised that referral rates are at 125% of pre-COVID19 levels and trusts are absorbing this activity well.

The Board were given an overview of the upcoming Cancer Waiting Times changes taking effect from 1 October 2023, whereby the statutory reporting requirements will move to three (3) metrics (FDS, 31-day combined and 62-day). Mike Ryan reiterated the importance of maintaining local metrics including the 2ww process for system continuity.

FDS Segmentation

The Board were given an overview of pathway segmentation analysis the results of which are driving targeted transformation in delivery and administration of pathways.

Constituent members of the EMCA Board were asked to ensure the intelligence is utilised to support local level improvement to FDS performance.

Cancer SROs and ICS Leads System updates

All systems gave an update on their current performance and challenges, along with updates on the priority pathways and actions being taken to improve pathway performance.

Quality and Patient Experience

EMCA Prehabilitation Gold Standard Framework Presentation

Heather MacKinnon PhD, Prehabilitation Clinical Service Lead at UHL presented the Prehabilitation Gold Standard Framework.

The framework outlines the service provision recommendations for East Midlands. Prehabilitation is becoming the standard of care across the country and the aim of the framework is to support its implementation and standardisation, but there is sufficient scope within the framework to local trusts to flex as needed based on local pressures and priorities. For further information, please contact england.emca@nhs.net

East Midlands Integrated Video Therapy Service and Centre of Excellence for Psychosocial Training, Practice and Research Presentation – Sam Malins, Lead Clinical Psychologist for East Midlands Cancer Alliance Integrated Video Therapy Service at NUH, presented the integrated video therapy service.

Sam Malins gave an overview of the training provided through the EMCA centre for psychosocial health.

235 staff have been trained and supervised. More than 1000 sessions have been provided and £70,000 in research funding has been won. The service works collaboratively with more than 20 organisations, including academia, and is developing a Centre of Excellence. For further information, please contact england.emca@nhs.net

Early Diagnosis Presentation Dr Pawan Randev, GP Clinical Lead for East Midlands Cancer Alliance, presented an overview of the three-year EMCA Early Detection and Diagnosis Strategy. It was noted there are a significant number of deliverables in the cancer plan impacting primary care. Dr Randev outlined the challenges primary care is facing and a summary of actions being taken to support primary care to deliver the cancer plan.

Dr Randev asked for support from the Board for the range of projects being undertaken and emphasised the importance of optimising all patient contact for example, ensuring cancer screening is up-to-date during an annual diabetes check.

Self-Assessment Process Update

Sarah Hughes, Managing Director of Midlands Cancer Alliances, reported that Cancer Alliances have been required to undertake a self-assessment process.

The Board were provided with a summary document of responses and a comparison with the average of 21 Cancer Alliances nationally. Areas for improvement were identified; for the East Midlands, these included the utilisation of data and innovation. A support offer is being developed by the national team. EMCA team is comparably significantly smaller for a larger population and number of ICBs compared to the national average across all Cancer Alliances. Funding is available to recruit to additional posts and these will form part of the team transferring out of NHS England. The Board were updated that the future host for EMCA, on behalf of all five ICBs, is expected to be NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (subject to confirmation).

Items for Information

EMCA Risk Register Update

The Board was presented with an up-to-date risk register report as of August 2023 for information and use to inform future planning priorities.

EMCA Finance Report Update

The Board was presented with the finance report outlining spend profiles for Q1 and governance arrangements as of August 2023 for information.

Cancer Workforce Development

Jane McCombe provided an overview of workforce offers including a funded course for colleagues to receive training on how to improve health literacy within their service, which will include a small funding grant to develop a strategy following this. Further detail to come. Funding has now been released for the clinical nurse specialist and chemotherapy nursing training grants and the care navigator funding is in progress. Jane provided the key highlights and current focus of the ACCEND programme.

Cancer Screening Update

The Board was presented with a screening report as of July/August 2023 for information. Breast screening backlog has recovered; however, uptake is low in some areas and a discussion was held on targeted support to address this. Bowel cancer screening programme is concentrating on the rollout of Lynch Syndrome and the lowering of the age bracket to 54-year-olds.

Cervical screening laboratory is achieving the seven-day turnaround target.

For further information please contact:

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

Date of next Board Meeting:

27 November 2023 @ 1pm – 3pm via MS Teams.

EMCA ICS leads contact details:

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