

East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board Briefing Meeting held 21st July 2025

For the attention of EMCA Board members, Accountable Officers, CEOs, Cancer Senior Responsible Officers (SROs), Cancer Managers and Cancer Leads in ICBs and Trusts:

The East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board met on 21st July 2025 via MS Teams to review the work and progress of partner organisations across EMCA. Richard Mitchell chaired the meeting. The Board has representation from the five East Midlands ICBs across both commissioning, medical and provider organisations. It also has representatives from Specialised Commissioning, Public Health, Workforce Training and Education, Macmillan, and Cancer Research UK. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed contributions from all colleagues.

Cancer Alliance National Update – NHS 10-year plan

Vicky Millward, Managing Director, EMCA provided a comprehensive update on the Cancer Alliance, highlighting:

- The progress made in the first quarter, highlighting the innovation and collaboration efforts across the Alliance.
- The focus on innovation and collaboration
- The importance of evidencing return on investment to ensure continued support and funding.

Vicky mentioned the operational focus of Alliance-funded cancer programme leads in each of the five ICBs and the collaborative working happening across the region.

The Fit for Future 10-year health plan was discussed, and its impact on cancer, including prevention, vaccination, early detection, screening, treatment, and innovation with genomics.

Performance Update

Alastair Simpson, EMCA Clinical Director, and Yasmin Bhatt, EMCA Programme Manager for Operational Performance, provided an update on performance, focusing on the challenges in Lower GI, Gynae, and Urology cancer pathways. The discussion took place around:

- The need for a detailed understanding of the pathways.
- The importance of reducing variation across the region by sharing best practices and standardising processes.
- The pathway review and improvement programme, which aims to understand the detailed aspects of each pathway, including patient events and processes between events.

This ongoing work is crucial for making tangible improvements in performance.

Programme Overview Update

Gurjit Pahal, Associate Director outlined the progress in programmes towards the end of the first quarter, highlighting the challenges encountered in:

- Liver surveillance
- Lung cancer screening
- Skin pathway

The positive engagement with ICBs was noted with the provider colleagues identifying bottlenecks and supporting performance improvement.

Lung Cancer Screening Update

Sam Errington, Programme Manager, EMCA provided an update on the Lung Cancer Screening Programme, highlighting the risks and outlined recommendations for the lung cancer screening programme:

- Delayed starts
- Noting the risks
- Supporting delayed starts
- Facilitating discussions with providers around reduced funding and ensuring approval in a timely manner.
- Addressing surgical capacity issues.

Centre of Psychosocial Excellence Update

Vicky Millward, Managing Director, EMCA provided an update on progress made so far to establish future commissioning arrangements for the East Midlands Centre for Psychosocial Excellence. Options are being explored by East Midlands ICB's with an option appraisal being taken through individual ICB governance processes. An update will be brought back to the board in September.

Robotics Report Update

Alastair Simpson, Clinical Director, EMCA presented a proposal for a coordinated regional strategic business case for robotic surgery, highlighting the potential benefits for cancer performance and the importance of a shared risk model.

There was an emphasis on the need for a clear return on investment and a pilot phase to evaluate the outcomes.

Shaping New Cancer Care Update

Vicky Millward, Managing Director, EMCA provided an update on the establishment of a life sciences hub, highlighting the potential for collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry to improve cancer performance.

There was a discussion around the need for a coordinated approach and a project board to oversee the governance and approval process.

ICB Update

ICB Leads from Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, and Derbyshire provided updates on their respective regions, highlighting key achievements, ongoing challenges, and collaborative efforts to improve cancer care.

Good news stories shared included:

- Lincolnshire Lung Cancer Pathway has been out for procurement.
- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland have funding agreed for an awareness campaign focussed on Prostate Cancer in Black male service users, as well as a Bowel Screening Awareness campaign in Leicester City.

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have 2 Primary Care Networks (PCNs) involved in the Pancreatic Case Finding Pilot.

Any Other Business

Alastair acknowledged the strong collaborative efforts that have taken shape during the first quarter of the year. He recognised the ongoing challenges faced by NHS staff and expressed sincere gratitude for their unwavering commitment. Their continued dedication is helping to build momentum and drive improvements in cancer outcomes for our population.

Documents for Information

- Specialised Commissioning
- Screening Report
- Finance Update report
- Specialised Commissioning Report
- EMCA Communication Report
- EMCA Newsletter – [August 2025](#)
- Primary Care Newsletter - [Primary Care Newsletter July 2025](#)

Date of next Board Meeting:

22nd September 2025 between 1.00-3.00m via (Face to Face) at County Hall, Leicestershire, venue to be confirmed

EMCA ICB Leads contact details:

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