

## **East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board Briefing Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> May 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 19<sup>th</sup> May 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.

The meeting commenced by sharing news that the EMCA Cancer Delivery Plan for 2025/26 has been finalised and approved at both regional and national levels. Vicky highlighted that this positions EMCA well to collaboratively deliver on the three key pillars: faster diagnosis, earlier detection, and improved treatment and care. Vicky thanked all colleagues who contributed to the plan.

### **ECAG Update**

Alastair Simpson, Clinical Director discussed the realignment of the ECAGs within Cancer Alliance, including the:

- Funding of leadership roles within each ECAG, which are intended to bring ECAGs into alignment with the Cancer Delivery Plan.
- Standardisation of ECGs, including new terms of reference to make their operations more uniform across different cancer pathways.
- Availability of funds for region-wide projects aimed at improving performance or reducing variation across cancer pathways.

This integration ensures that the direction of travel for the Cancer Alliance, ICBs, and ECGs is aligned.

### **SDF Allocation**

Vicky Millward, Managing Director confirmed that the funding allocations for 2025/26 have been approved by the EMCA Investment committee. These allocations will be brought to the Board for final sign off, before being disseminated across ICBs.

### **Transformation Programme**

Gurjit Pahal, Associate Director outlined the delivery of the 2024-2025 East Midlands Cancer Alliance plan, highlighting:

- Strong performance in the faster diagnosis standard, although the 31-day and 62-day pathways remain challenging and will be a priority for 2025/26.
- National recognition received for collaborative efforts in improving cancer care through successful funding bids and awards received.

EMCA are to focus on the implementation of the 25/26 Cancer Delivery Plan which includes innovative pilots across the region, including:

- The SBRI funding for primary care flagging

- Oesophageal case findings in partnership with Boots Pharmacy
  - The nurse-led LATP programme.
- These pilots aim to improve early diagnosis and cancer care delivery.

### EMCA Governance Review

April Davis, Associate Director emphasised the need to strengthen the internal governance structure to better support the delivery of cancer priorities and accelerate transformation efforts. The new structure aims to:

- Provide clear roles and responsibilities
- Provide a route for escalation and risk management.
- Increase visibility and oversight of risks
- Improve the management of any issues that may arise during the delivery of cancer plans.

### Cervical Screening

Lisa Freeman and Catherine Koutna discussed the cervical screening Trailblazer Fellowship in Lincolnshire which focussed on increasing screening uptake in:

- Non-English speakers by providing electronic invites translated into 9 different languages and holding drop-in sessions on Saturdays and evenings.
- Transgender patients by creating an inclusive environment, providing staff training on using transgender-inclusive language, and ensuring correct names and pronouns are used in medical records.
- International recruits by:
  - Including screening information in their orientation packages
  - Working with the local occupational health department to raise awareness
  - Organising a mobile screening service at the local hospital

### Regional site-specific live data dashboard

Kay Dhesi and Dan Bird presented the development of the prostate oncology dashboard, which aims to:

- Provide transparency
- Standardise pathways
- Identify bottlenecks in the oncology service.

The dashboard will help improve the management of demand and capacity in the region.

### Radiotherapy Demand and Capacity

Alan Watson and Priyesh Mistry demonstrated the radiotherapy demand and capacity model, which helps providers estimate current and future service needs, evaluate resources, and develop scenarios to improve capacity management.

### 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:

- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland held a collaborative event with primary care at the local market to raise awareness for skin cancer and the importance of sun cream.
- Northampton General Hospital have launched a new non-invasive treatment for prostate cancer.
- Derbyshire participated in filming with Heartburn Cancer UK for a news story for BBC East Midlands today on the collaborative Persistent Heartburn campaign.

### Specialised Commissioning

Noted apologies from Specialised commissioning team. The report has been shared with the Board, any queries to direct to Vicky Millward to take it back to the commissioning team.

### Public Health Screening

Steph Cook provided an update on breast, bowel, and cervical screening programs, including:

- Ongoing concerns and the subsequent recovery plans to support these services.
- New initiatives, including service development improvement plans.
- Future plans including the cervical screening elimination by 2040 plan.

### Any Other Business

Vicky emphasised the importance of actively engaging patients and sharing positive stories through our communication channels.

### Documents for Information

- Risk register
- EMCA Communication Report
- Specialised Commissioning Report from CMOG (Chief Medical Officer Group)

### Date of next Board Meeting:

21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 between 1-2:30pm via MS Teams

### EMCA ICB Leads contact details:

| East Midlands ICSSs                    | EMCA Board Representative/s ICS Lead                                                       |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland | Adam Andrews, <a href="mailto:Adam.andrews@nhs.net">Adam.andrews@nhs.net</a>               |
| Nottingham and Nottinghamshire         | Simon Castle, <a href="mailto:simon.castle1@nhs.net">simon.castle1@nhs.net</a>             |
| Joined up Care Derbyshire              | Monica McAlindon, <a href="mailto:Monica.mcalindon1@nhs.net">Monica.mcalindon1@nhs.net</a> |
| Better Lives Lincolnshire              | Louise Jeanes, <a href="mailto:louise.jeanes@nhs.net">louise.jeanes@nhs.net</a>            |
| Northamptonshire                       | Sarah Barnes, <a href="mailto:sarah.barnes8@nhs.net">sarah.barnes8@nhs.net</a>             |