

# Greater Manchester **Cancer**

## Vanguard Innovation news

November 2016

### Welcome to Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard Innovation News

Each month we will bring you the latest news from the Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard Innovation workstream, providing updates on key areas of our work. We will also be holding a number of showcase events

to give you the opportunity to engage in our work and ask questions.

We would welcome your comments - our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

### OUR AMBITION FOR CHANGE

Greater Manchester has been given the opportunity to transform the way cancer care is delivered. The establishment of the Greater Manchester Cancer Board has marked a new phase in securing significant improvements in cancer outcomes and patient experience, and in reducing inequity and variability in the care delivered.

Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard Innovation is one of three partners that comprise the national Cancer Vanguard, set up by NHS England's New Care Models team. Together with our national partners, RM Partners, based at The Royal Marsden, and UCLH Cancer Collaborative, based at University College London Hospitals, we will test innovative ways of both delivering and commissioning cancer care that will focus on evidencing change to ensure better care, better outcomes and a better experience for our patients. Locally, we are leading on a range of innovative projects which will test out innovations in care delivery and review how cancer care is funded and organised across the entire patient pathway, from prevention and early diagnosis through to end-of-life care.

While cancer services in Greater Manchester have seen significant improvements in recent years, there is still much to do.

Greater Manchester Cancer Clinical Lead Mr Dave Shackley said: *'Too many people are being diagnosed with cancer at a late stage and have fewer treatment options.'*

*'There is broad consensus that we need to focus on prevention, early detection and rapid referral to ensure those prospects improve. We are passionate about delivering the best possible care for our patients and we are determined to make the most of the opportunity we have been given.'*



**“Too many people are being diagnosed with cancer at a late stage and have fewer treatment options”**

Dave Shackley, Greater Manchester Cancer Clinical Lead

# FOCUS ON EARLIER DIAGNOSIS



GPs gather to discuss our proposals for faster diagnosis

Late diagnosis is one of the main causes of Greater Manchester's high cancer mortality rate.

Our innovation project, known as Query Cancer, will see patients referred to a one-stop clinic where the majority would receive a yes or no diagnosis within seven days of receipt of referral. This is a significant challenge but, if successful, would radically improve cancer outcomes. Ms Hazel Warburton, secondary care lead in our diagnostic models workstream, said: *'We were set up to make bold and radical improvements in cancer. Specifically, in our work stream we have set ourselves a massive challenge to speed up diagnosis, providing reassurance quickly for the majority and freeing up specialists' time for those who require it.'*

The aim is to reduce the number of patients who are diagnosed at a late stage and who therefore have fewer treatment options. The initial focus will be on patients with vague symptoms: they will undergo a CT scan, pathology tests and, if appropriate, an endoscopy at the one-stop clinic, and most will receive a yes/no diagnosis on the same day.

Those patients with cancer will be referred to multi-disciplinary teams, while those without cancer, who will be the majority, will be discharged back to their GPs and offered the appropriate treatment.

Pilot projects for patients with vague symptoms are due to begin at the University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust in February 2017 and at Royal Oldham Hospital in March 2017. Other pathways will be

considered when the pilots are completed. We have had a very encouraging response from the engagement events we have held for patient groups, GPs and secondary care specialists from across Greater Manchester. Patient experience, in particular, is paramount in the development of the project and will be used to scrutinise and challenge it during the pilot phase.



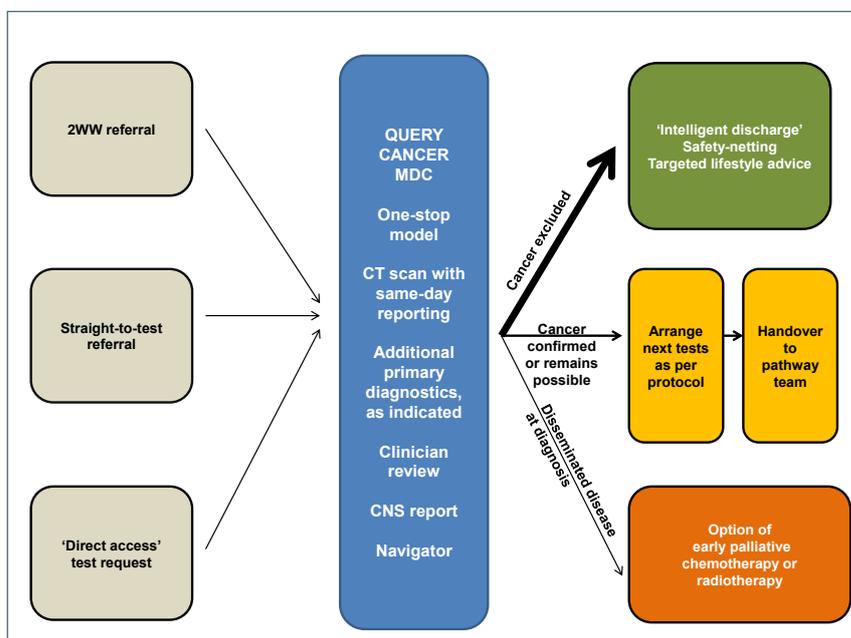
Dr Sarah Taylor

Dr Matthias Hohmann

Much of the primary engagement work is being led by South Manchester Macmillan GP Dr Sarah Taylor and Oldham GP Dr Matthias Hohmann, who is Macmillan GP adviser for Greater Manchester and Cheshire. Dr Hohmann said: *'This is a project I feel really passionate about. We are going to make an impact by shortening the patient pathway and improving the quality of the service for those who do and those who do not have cancer.'*

*'It means a fundamental transformation of diagnostic services that will benefit patients on many different pathways. It needs a lot of engagement and negotiation but we're on track to meet the challenging targets we've set ourselves.'*

Dr Taylor added: *'This is a great opportunity to set up the system that we need. The system is sometimes inefficient – hospitals are under enormous pressure and don't have the time to think how to do it better. We can do the thinking for them.'*



## ENSURING A STRONG PATIENT VOICE IN THE PROJECTS

Mike Thorpe, 59, from Prestwich, is an active patient representative who sits on a number of focus groups. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in February 2014. Here he reflects on our work so far.



‘It’s very exciting and I’ve been impressed with everything I’ve seen. The programme is ambitious but it has some very committed people so I’m sure it will achieve its aims.

‘You often hear people in the health service say they’re putting patients at the heart of things, but in this case it seems they mean it. Patients and patient representatives are always involved in the way projects are taken forward.

‘When I was first diagnosed I was in complete denial. The first thing I did afterwards was text my mate to see if he wanted to go to the football. We went to the game and I spent the whole evening without even mentioning it to him.

‘Things are very different now. I’m involved in loads of things. I’m a member of the Patients’ and Carers’ Reference Group at The Christie and I’m a user representative for the Macmillan Cancer Improvement Partnership. That involves raising awareness of a number of projects.

‘I’m also a service user representative for Manchester Cancer and I sit on their urology pathway board. I do some work with Cancer Research UK and help advise them on policy and campaigns.

‘What impresses me most about the innovation projects is that there are firm deadlines for when projects should be completed. People’s minds are really focused on getting things done and there’s a definite can-do attitude.

‘As a prostate cancer patient, it’s exciting to be part of the process that will improve things for patients across Greater Manchester, including myself.’

We have appointed a dedicated User Involvement lead, Paula Daley, who can be contacted at [paula.daley1@nhs.net](mailto:paula.daley1@nhs.net)

## REFORMING THE SYSTEM FOR BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES

Adrian Hackney is Director of Commissioning – Greater Manchester Cancer Services at NHS Trafford CCG, and leads our work on exploring options for an accountable cancer network.



‘One of the core projects in the innovation workstream is to explore options for an accountable cancer network in Greater Manchester.

‘Our aim, along with our London partners, is to test out an accountable cancer network (ACN) that aims to be better integrated, more transparent and more accountable than current arrangements. We will test new ways of commissioning, funding and contracting for care and focus on a number of priority areas.

‘At the heart of this work is the idea of a single organising function. This organisation will take a pathway-based approach to create a better integrated system. Each of the three national partners will test different approaches to see how best we can create an ACN.

‘We will work with a number of commissioning bodies to reduce the current fragmentation and streamline the system. We want to arrive at a more consistent approach to driving up standards, and over the coming months we will engage with a wide range of stakeholders to identify the main issues and the best way to improve services. We and our London partners will each work within our own local systems throughout 2016/17 and begin to test the new models the following year.

‘The creation of the Greater Manchester Cancer Board is something I welcome because it brings commissioners and providers together, and will be a key stage in setting up an accountable network for cancer.

‘We’re about to start a series of engagement events to sound people out – our aim in streamlining the way we commission care is, as always, to deliver a better service for patients.’

# CANCER EDUCATION THROUGH DIGITAL INNOVATION

Filming is under way for our ground-breaking educational platform that will help GPs recognise when patients have cancer. The online tool features learning modules and films that will also help doctors engage more effectively with patients.

The films and other online features will help users explore the consequences of a series of decisions they make and GPs have been involved in every step of the platform's development. Each short film features a GP's consultation with a patient and shows how the doctor deliberates over whether to write a prescription, ask further questions or refer the patient on for further treatment.

The films are designed to be highly interactive and GPs will be able to click on a decision they might make during a consultation and see the outcome for the patient. GPs will also be helped to discuss the likely next steps for the patient.

Our project team is also gathering information about all the relevant educational opportunities and resources available in Greater Manchester to which users will be directed through the platform. This underlines the ambition for the digital platform to be a highly credible gateway for primary care cancer education.

Dr Catherine Heaven, Associate Director of The Christie School of Oncology, said: *'This is a crucially important area of work and GPs have been involved in the development of the platform at every stage.'*



Filming is under way for our GP education platform.

*'It is intended for GPs so it's crucial that they are involved because we want to make it as useful and as relevant as possible.'*

Dr Heaven added that the project team was piloting the platform with a small group of GPs at the end of this year before the project is rolled out in summer 2017. The next in our series of showcase events, which highlight progress in our projects, takes place on 13 December at The Christie School of Oncology education centre and will feature our work on the GP online education and training tool. For more details please contact [cancervanguard.gm@nhs.net](mailto:cancervanguard.gm@nhs.net)

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## Want to find out more?

If you'd like to know more about Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard Innovation, please contact our programme director Jenny Scott at [cancervanguard.gm@nhs.net](mailto:cancervanguard.gm@nhs.net)

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