

Cancer care in Greater Manchester is changing.

Greater Manchester's NHS has made real improvements in cancer care in recent years.

But there is still much more to do. We have been given the freedom to deliver cancer care in a way that makes more sense for the population of Greater Manchester.

We hope to make big changes over the next three years to radically improve the experience and outcomes from cancer care in the region.

How did we get here?

In October 2014 the NHS in England published its **Five Year Forward View**. This strategy made it clear that new ways of organising NHS care would be needed in the coming years to provide more appropriate care for local populations and meet the challenges faced by the NHS.

In the light of this strategy all NHS organisations were asked to put themselves forward to test some of these new ways of organising care (in what are called *vanguards*). At the same time, an **independent cancer taskforce** appointed by the NHS was publishing its recommendations. One of these recommendations was that the NHS should test a new way of providing cancer care under a single lead organisation for an entire region.

Greater Manchester's NHS took this opportunity to propose a **radical new way of organising cancer care across the city** to allow us to make massive improvements to patient outcomes and experience. After making its case to NHS England, Greater Manchester was successfully chosen along with partners in London as part of a National Cancer Vanguard.

This wider partnership with North and East London, led by University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and South and West London, led by The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, gives us the opportunity to work closely together to test our ambitious changes over a combined **population of around 10 million**.

What are the issues facing Greater Manchester's cancer services?

The pattern of cancer is changing in the population. We know that **1 in 2 people will get cancer at some point in their life** and that every 30 minutes someone in Greater Manchester is told that they have cancer.

We also know that over **half of these people will live for 10 years or more** after treatment and it is essential that services are developed that respond their needs.

Greater Manchester has some of the highest rates of premature death from cancer in the country. One quarter of patients are diagnosed with cancer through an emergency admission, with these patients doing particularly poorly. **Earlier diagnosis** of cancer is essential if we are to make meaningful steps in improving survival for our patients.

There is also **unacceptable and unexplained variation** in clinical standards, clinical outcomes and patient experience of cancer care within Greater Manchester.

Despite these challenges, by **working together** the NHS in Greater Manchester has made some significant improvements to cancer care in recent years.

The one-year survival rate after cancer treatment in Greater Manchester has **improved significantly** over a number of years and is now better than the England average and other major cities like Birmingham and London.

We still stand **well behind leading European countries** in terms of cancer survival and a new approach is required to make meaningful and sizable improvements in preventing and treating cancer more effectively.

What will the Greater Manchester cancer vanguard do?

The aim of the vanguard is to **significantly improve the cancer outcomes for the 3 million people** of Greater Manchester.

This means work will need to be focused on **prevention and earlier detection** in particular, but also on ensuring the highest quality care is offered to all patients in a coordinated, equitable and responsive way.

Specific city-wide projects will be rapidly developed and implemented, including:

1. Increasing public awareness of beneficial lifestyle changes and suspected cancer symptoms
2. Developing streamlined one-stop diagnostic clinics and testing patient self-referral for cancer tests
3. Developing a comprehensive *cancer intelligence unit* so that information on cancer outcomes and patient experience can be widely shared amongst healthcare professionals and the public

The vanguard is a **Greater Manchester alliance** led by:

- The Christie NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group (lead cancer CCG for Greater Manchester)
- Manchester Cancer (a collaboration of expert cancer clinicians from across the region)

The vanguard creates a **single system leader** that will be held accountable for all cancer outcomes across the city.

The system leader will be responsible for a **coordinated approach to cancer care** in Greater Manchester spanning the entire spectrum from public health and primary care through to diagnostics, treatment, long-term support and end of life care. It will seek to ensure consistency

in all cancer services.

The vanguard will **simplify the arrangements** through which the NHS in Greater Manchester plans and funds cancer care. This will allow NHS commissioners to focus on the equity of cancer care and patient outcomes.

We are committed to making sure that all of the vanguard work is **patient-centred, clinically-led and outcomes-focused**. We will work with patient and carer groups to ensure that patients and their families are fully involved at every stage in shaping how this work will develop and hear what is important to them in future services.

How will cancer services look in 2018?

This has never been attempted before and represents more than a collection of organisations with a common interest. It is a **fundamental change** to cancer care in Greater Manchester.

Cancer care in Greater Manchester in 2018 will be very different to now:

- Patients and carers will be equal partners in the planning process and services will be modelled around their changing needs, with patient experience valued as importantly as other patient outcomes.
- The number of patients being diagnosed at a late stage in their disease will have reduced significantly.
- We will have integrated diagnostic services that are rapid and convenient for patients.
- Our cancer performance will exceed comparable cities.
- Greater Manchester will be a source of inspiration to other cancer systems on how they can change and improve.
- The cost of delivering this quality of cancer care will have been contained despite the increasing numbers of patients.

How can I find out more?

Website www.gmcancervanguard.org

Twitter [@GM_Ca_Vanguard](https://twitter.com/GM_Ca_Vanguard)

Email CancerVanguard.GM@nhs.net