



Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance

Autumn 2019

Message from our Executive Lead

Welcome to the first quarterly newsletter from Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance. The NHS Long Term Plan makes a strong commitment to improvements and transformation in cancer care and treatment.

We've introduced this newsletter to keep you, our colleagues and stakeholders, updated on the work of the Cancer Alliance and the progress we are making as system leaders, working with and on behalf of our STPs and ICSs, to deliver those commitments for our populations.

This year is significant for Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance. We've secured more than £6 million from NHS England and NHS Improvement to support the delivery of the Planning Guidance priorities for cancer. It is the largest annual sum Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance has secured since we were established and will enable us to make real progress. You can read more about this and our delivery plan in this edition of the newsletter.

The Alliance has undergone a transformation itself over the past few months. We have listened to feedback from our stakeholders and taken the opportunity to reset. This has seen us work with our system partners to establish a vision, mission and values for our Alliance and the foundations for a new way of working with you all.

Our values underpin our approach to cancer transformation: patients first; collaborative working; a willingness to change; compassionate at all times; transformation that's based on evidence; and honesty and integrity.

We are excited to see what the year ahead brings and look forward to working with you.



Louise Stead

Executive Lead for Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance
Chief Executive of Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Keri Torney joins as new Managing Director



Dr Keri Torney has been appointed as Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance's new Managing Director.

Keri started in post in October and will work with Louise Stead and Dr Fiona McKinna to provide leadership, system oversight and coordination of cancer services, to support improved patient outcomes, experience and the delivery of the cancer constitutional standards; she will also be responsible for the

day to day management of the Alliance's business functions. [Read more.](#)

£6.2m funding secured for 2019/20

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance (SSCA) has secured [£6.2 million funding for 2019/20](#) to drive transformation and improvement in our prevention and early diagnosis, faster diagnosis, treatment and care and personalised care programmes, and support sustainable operational performance.

The funding will support our delivery plan for the year, which includes:

- Increasing capacity, balancing supply and demand, and supporting cross-organisational working so that we can deliver all eight cancer waiting times standards.
- Demonstrable improvements in number of lung, prostate and colorectal cancer patients diagnosed in 28 days and implementing an oesophago-gastric timed pathway in all Trusts.
- Improving the uptake of cancer screening programmes, specifically in areas of deprivation in Surrey and Sussex.
- Implementing a Rapid Diagnostic Service that reflects our population, geography and demographic need. We are exploring virtual and face to face models and may implement a variety of operational solutions in different localities.
- Ensuring that from April 2020 approximately two-thirds of patients who finish treatment for breast cancer are on a supported self-management follow-up pathway
- Support all Alliance Trusts to have protocols in place for stratifying the follow up of prostate and colorectal patients and systems for remote monitoring for these patients.

- Ensuring that all breast, prostate and colorectal cancer patients (including secondary cancer) to have access to personalised support from the point of diagnosis.

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance web pages live

As part of our work to improve communication with our stakeholders, we have created web pages where you can find out about the role of the Alliance, who's in our core team, our partners, and what we are working on.

We will use the site to update you on Alliance news and events as well as highlighting our achievements.

Visit www.england.nhs.uk/surreyandsussexcanceralliance/

Our vision, mission and values

We've worked with our system partners over the past couple of months to agree a [vision, mission and values](#) for our Alliance.

We have also spent time reviewing our structure, governance and strategic and operational roles. Work is underway to finalise these and recruit new team members to our project management office.

Engaging on the Long Term Plan for cancer

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance's members got together in October to discuss how to best to implement the Long Term Plan for cancer for the Surrey and Sussex population over the next five years.

The Alliance's core team were joined by representatives from member organisations across all three Integrated Care Systems. Attendees took part in workshops focused on performance, personalised care, prevention, faster diagnosis and workforce.

Key discussion themes included the need to address inequity and a greater focus on services and care that meets patients' needs at a time when people lead increasingly busy lives.

The feedback and insights gathered will be used to inform the Alliance's response to the Long Term Plan, which we are developing in partnership with our Integrated Care Systems. For more information, [contact](#) the Alliance's core team.

Personalised care and support project managers appointed

Welcome to Tim Hutson, Sarah Dawson, Laura Winder and Hasan Ahmed, who have recently been appointed as project managers to implement our work on personalised and care support.

They will be working in the acute Trusts in our area, with Tim supporting Western Sussex; Laura, Royal Surrey; Sarah, Ashford St Peters and Hasan, Frimley. Recruitment is underway for two more project managers to support Brighton and East Sussex.

The team will have a specific focus on personalised care interventions and supporting the implementation of the self-management pathway for breast cancer, Colorectal and Prostate.

Stratified pathways for follow-up care

Guidelines to support the implementation of stratified pathways for breast and colorectal cancer patients have been agreed and signed off by the respective pathway groups.

We are also working with our provider partners to develop guidelines for the stratified pathway for prostate cancer patients.

Following treatment, stratified pathways enable individuals to have the most appropriate follow-up care to meet their specific needs. The aim of the approach is to improve patient experience, outcomes and quality of care by tailoring aftercare with supported self-management.

For more information or copies of the guidelines please [get in touch](#).

Prehabilitation and rehabilitation work gets underway

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance has funded an extension of a community-based service, called Brighter Outlook, in High Weald Lewes Havens. Brighter Outlook offers a personalised programme of prehabilitation and rehabilitation during or post-treatment to improve diet, psychological wellbeing and cardiorespiratory fitness. [Watch the video](#) to learn more about the programme.

We will be working with Brighton and Hove CCG, High Weald Lewis Havens CCG and charity Albion in the Community to deliver this work. We plan to hold a workshop in early 2020 to discuss the wider Alliance approach to prehabilitation for surgical and non-surgical patients.

As part of our work to develop services linked to prehabilitation and the consequence of cancer treatments, we have also set up a new Psychological support virtual reference group with clinical psychologists from across Surrey and Sussex. The group will support the development of initiatives linked to improved access to psychological support.

For more information or to get involved [contact Steph Bell](#), Senior Programme Manager for Personalised Care.

Targeted screening interventions

Local targeted interventions for 2019/20 are being developed to improve uptake in screening of cancer screening in North West Surrey, the Northern Alliance (spanning East Surrey and Crawley and Horsham Mid Sussex) and East Sussex,

where there is low uptake. Funded by the Alliance, the interventions will be rolled out, evaluated, and the learning shared across the region to inform future targeted interventions over the next four years.

For more information, [contact Louisa Daly](#), Senior Programme Manager for Screening and Early Diagnosis.

FIT test for bowel cancer screening launched

Roll out of the new FIT (faecal immunochemical test) bowel cancer screening test began in June as part of the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme in England. FIT is easier to for people to use than previous tests and is more accurate because it can detect smaller signs of blood hidden in faecal samples which can be an early sign of bowel cancer.

Men and women in England aged 60 to 74 will continue to be invited to take part in the programme. FIT will replace the current guaiac faecal occult blood test (gFOBt) for all new screening invitations and is a significant deliverable as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

New co-chair for the colorectal cancer group

Mr Phil Bearn, Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has taken over the role of co-chair for Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance's colorectal group, following Mr Mark Gudgeon's retirement.



Phil previously held the role of colorectal workstream lead and played a key role in developing our Cancer Alliance.

Colorectal co-chair, Mr Tony Miles, said: "I am really pleased that Phil has been appointed to this role. We have known each other for many years and we have complementary skills and strengths. We know that as a team we will be able to help realise the ambitions of the multi-disciplinary team leads to meet the cancer care targets."

We would like to thank Mark for his work over the past 12 months and wish him a happy retirement.

Breast Cancer Study Day

The Brighton Breast Cancer Study Day on Friday 20 September saw professionals from multiple disciplines get together to develop their learning and earn CPD points.

Living with and beyond cancer, regional cancer data and multi-disciplinary working were just some of the topics discussed.

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance supported the event by subsidising the attendance fee for NHS professionals and hosting a workshop session on patient experience.

Fay Scott, Patient and Public Participation Lead at Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance lead a workshop session. Describing the session, Fay said: “Nikki Smith, a former breast cancer patient, and I ran an interactive workshop on Working Together to Improve Patient Outcomes. In what proved to be a great opportunity to share learning and experiences, participants discussed a case study and fed back their insights and areas for improvement concerning cancer care.”

Volunteers sought for our patient and public involvement group

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance is looking for people with experience of living with cancer, caring for someone with cancer to join our new patient and public participation group.

We've developed the following text to promote the new group and would be grateful for any help in promoting the group through your organisations' communications channels:

Help improve cancer care and the quality of life of people with cancer

Do you have experience of living with cancer, or do you care for someone with cancer?? Would you like to help improve cancer treatment and care so the people of Surrey and Sussex have a better, all-round experience?

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance is looking for people of all backgrounds and abilities to join its new patient and public participation group – all you need is enthusiasm, ideas and commitment.

Volunteer your time to attend a small number of meetings a year and you'll get to meet some great people and influence how we care for people with cancer.

You will have the chance to develop your planning, research and collaboration skills. You'll help us plan how we can involve more patients and the public in improving cancer care, find out what others think of their care, and work with healthcare professionals to design cancer services and deliver staff training.

For more information [contact Fay Scott](#), Patient and Public Participation Project Lead, Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance.

Tumour site specific support for Trusts

Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance is offering support to Trusts on a tumour site specific basis. We can help with identifying the challenges faced by your service and solutions to overcome these. Look out for our meeting invitations or [contact us](#) directly to organise a visit to your Trust.

Free online education for primary care

GatewayC, an [online cancer education platform](#) which aims to improve patients outcomes and experiences, is now available free for all primary care professionals across the NHS in England.



The online cancer courses aim to improve cancer outcomes by facilitating earlier diagnosis and improving patient experience through:

- Improved knowledge of symptoms
- Increased confidence in when and when not to refer a patient
- Improved quality of suspected cancer referrals, reducing delays in the system
- Improved communication to enhance the patient experience and support patients at each stage of the cancer pathway.

GatewayC has been developed by GPs, specialists and patients. Courses accredited by the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) and supported by Cancer Research UK Macmillan Cancer Support.

Registration is currently free, funded by Health Education England.

Register now at www.gatewayc.org.uk/register.

CRUK'S free early diagnosis support for GP practices

Have you met your local Cancer Research UK facilitator yet? Debbie Bell and Lucy Pickup work in partnership with the NHS in Surrey and Sussex to support and promote early diagnosis of cancer. They offer free, tailored, practical support to GP practices to:

- understand and use your practice cancer data;
- support cancer prevention and promote healthy lifestyles;
- increase patients' informed uptake of screening programmes; and
- improve recognition and referral of symptomatic cancers.

A typical GP practice visit includes:

- a facilitated discussion of your practice cancer data including two week wait referrals and screening;
- practical tips to help you increase your cancer screening uptake;
- introduction to a range of early diagnosis resources and aid memoirs for the 2015 NICE suspected cancer guidance; and
- suggestions for cancer related audits for appraisal and revalidation.

Lucy and Debbie can deliver bespoke cancer awareness and screening workshops for your non-clinical staff and practice nursing team as well as safety-netting training for GPs and practice teams.

Visits can be scheduled as part of a practice meeting or your protected learning time. To find out more, or arrange a practice visit or training contact your local facilitator:

- [Lucy Pickup](#), Facilitator for Sussex CCGs
- [Debbie Bell](#), Facilitator for Surrey CCGs and North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG.

Support from Macmillan's locality teams

Macmillan Cancer Support works in partnership with NHS Trusts, CCGs, Local Authorities and other community and voluntary sector organisations to improve the lives of people living with cancer. The locality teams in Surrey and Sussex have a wide breadth of experience within them from volunteering and engagement, to service development and learning and development. They are keen to work with partners to put in place projects, services and professionals as well as support existing services.

For further details, please contact your local partnership manager:

- [Lucy-Ann Bett](#), Partnership Manager for Surrey
- [Richard Longrigg](#), Partnership Manager for Sussex.

For more information on any of the items in this newsletter and the work of Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance, email: rsch.sscaadmin@nhs.net

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