

Alliance Update - Issue 1

Hello and welcome to the first issue of Cancer Alliance Connections. The aim of this e-newsletter is to keep our partners up to date with the work of the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance and provide highlights from our programme.

Our successful bid for cancer transformation funding in 2017 enabled us to initiate a significant programme of work in all areas of the cancer pathway. By working in partnership and through the strong collaboration that exists across Cheshire and Merseyside, we have made great progress to improve cancer care, leading to the Alliance receiving 'Trailblazer' status, one of five nationally, by the National Cancer Programme Team.

The NHS is now developing a long term plan, building on the ambitions outlined in the national cancer taskforce report and service transformation already underway so that every person diagnosed with cancer has the best chance of survival and receives excellent treatment and care.

As we look to the future, we want to engage as widely as possible in developing the next phase of our programme. We would like to hear from you about opportunities to further improve outcomes and experience for people affected by cancer in preparation for the next round of national transformation funding. For more information please email: ccf-tr.admin.cmca@nhs.net

We are also keen to hear about the great work that is being undertaken across Cheshire and Merseyside – and please let us know what information you would like to see in future newsletters and how you would like to contribute your good news stories.

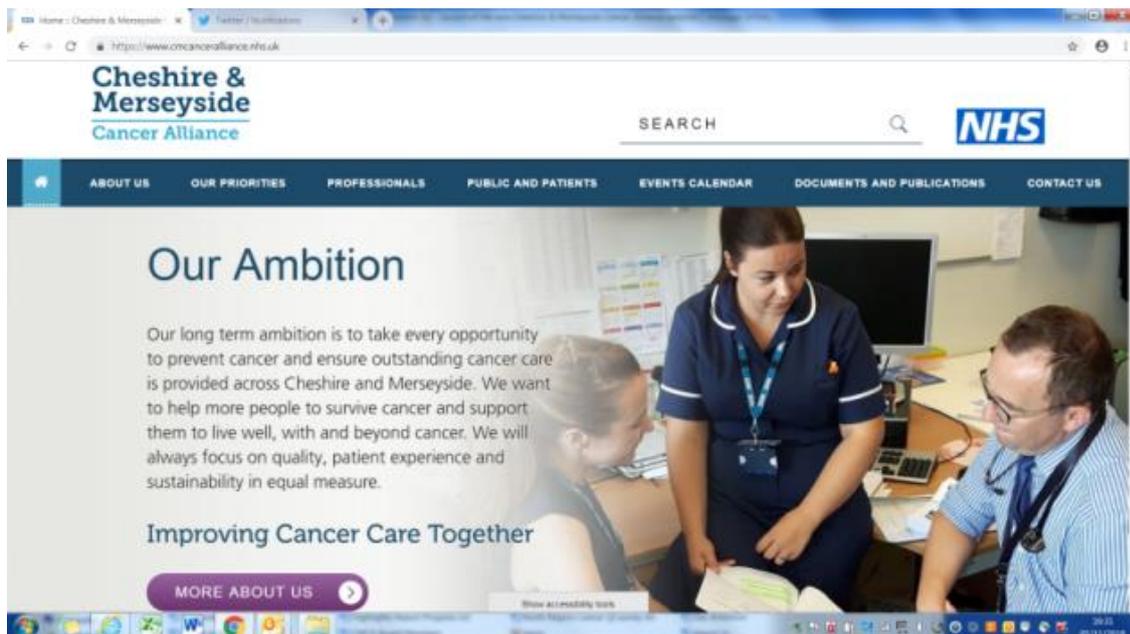


Linda Devereux - Programme Director

News

Lift off – launch of new Alliance website!

This Autumn, Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance launched a new website. To find contact information, useful links, how to get involved and up to date information on the work of the Alliance, please visit our site: www.cmcanceralliance.nhs.uk



We would be grateful for your feedback! Please email: Alison Jones, Communications & Engagement Officer alison.jones61@nhs.net

Cancer transformation funding boosts radiographer skills

Colorectal Cancer

The Alliance has commissioned training over the next six months which will result in a 65% increase in the number of radiographers able to undertake a preliminary review of CT colonographies. They will then have the expertise to alert radiologists to any suspicion of colorectal cancer and for patients to receive a staging CT scan. The training will begin in December and the Northern School of CT Colonography (Leeds) are providing the specialist training.

This initiative was developed as part of the colorectal pathway project which aims to optimise the patient pathway and reduce the time to diagnosis and treatment for patients suspected of colorectal cancer.

For further information please email: Anna Murray, Senior Project Manager anna.murray@nhs.net



Cheshire and Merseyside lead the way on Endoscopy improvement

Endoscopy teams from units in Cheshire and Merseyside are working together to make improvements in endoscopy services and support early diagnosis of cancer.

As part of this work, all trusts providing endoscopy services have taken part in a detailed review looking at all aspects of their service. The work has delivered a comprehensive view of efficiency and effectiveness and highlighted the challenges and opportunities for improvement in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The findings of this review provide a unique opportunity to develop focused plans to enhance services and make best use of resources for the population.

David King, Alliance Project Manager for Endoscopy was asked to present the methodology and findings of the review at an NHS England conference on the early diagnosis of cancer in September and was subsequently asked to lead a national

WebEx detailing this work. Regional and national colleagues are keen to replicate the work which is testament to David's support and the hard work of all endoscopy units who undertook this review.

For further information please email: David.King@sthk.nhs.uk

To view the presentation, [click here](#):



The CURE Programme – Curing tobacco addiction in Cheshire and Merseyside

Smoking is the single biggest avoidable cause of cancer and is thought to be responsible for around 7 in 10 cases of lung cancer. Despite significant improvement, smoking rates in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside remain among the highest in the country.

To support the ambition of reducing the incidence of cancer, the Alliance has funded a pilot project aiming to support people admitted to hospital to quit smoking.

Based on a successful project in Canada and a UK pilot in Manchester, the CURE project ensures all smokers admitted to hospital are offered intensive smoking cessation and treatment for their tobacco addiction.

Following a successful bidding process to host and deliver the project, we are delighted to announce that Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust will be leading the way in Cheshire and Merseyside and we wish them every success.

If the pilot proves successful, the Alliance will seek national support to expand CURE across Cheshire and Merseyside.

For further information regarding the CURE pilot, please email: gemma.hockenhull@nhs.net

New roles support early diagnosis of cancer

Building on the success of the Living With and Beyond Cancer support worker programme, cancer transformation funding has been used to appoint early diagnosis support workers across Cheshire and Merseyside to support patients as soon as they are referred and during their diagnostic stage. Working alongside clinical teams, these new roles work to speed up the time to diagnosis and support patients by coordinating care, being a point of contact for patients and freeing up specialist time for more complex cases.

The support worker role is enhanced by a comprehensive training and development programme, including a competency framework. This equips individuals with the skills, knowledge and confidence to support patients throughout the diagnostic journey and engage in conversations about lifestyle.

A number of development days have been facilitated by the Alliance, providing support workers with the opportunity to network, share learning and good practice.

For further information, please email: Sharon Rowe, Workforce Transformation Lead sharon.rowe@nhs.net



Events and Key Meetings

13 November 2018

Cheshire & Merseyside clinical and operational leads met together to discuss care for patients with suspected and diagnosed oesophago-gastric cancer to help develop an important new project within the Alliance. The aim of this work is to agree an optimal diagnosis and treatment pathway for oesophago-gastric cancer by end of March 2019 – watch this space for news as the project develops.

For further information please email: Gemma Hockenhull, Project Manager gemma.hockenhull@nhs.net

16 November 2018

The Alliance Living With and Beyond Cancer team held a Masterclass event at Suites Hotel in Knowsley entitled 'Making Recommendations a Reality'. The event provided an opportunity to share learning and good practice as we take forward ambitions within the national cancer strategy. The event was well attended, with representation from teams across the country and received very positive feedback. Presentations will be made available on the Alliance website.

For further information please email: Lucy Irwin, Project Admin and Support Officer lucy.irwin1@nhs.net



Forthcoming Alliance events and meetings:

3 December 2018

Improving Cancer Care Together (Early Diagnosis Programme)
Haydock Racecourse WA12 0HQ (Slides from the event will be made available on the Alliance website.

For further information on future events, please go the Alliance events calendar:
www.cmcanceralliance.nhs.uk/eventscalendar

Workforce Opportunities

We are happy to include your vacancies in future issues of Cancer Alliance Connections, please email ccf-tr.admin.cmca@nhs.net

Public Health Campaigns

November is Pancreatic Awareness Month. The Alliance has been tweeting information regarding the symptoms and risks of pancreatic cancer. Further details can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2yPAWE2>

The World Diabetes Day, promoted by the World Health Organisation, highlighted how people living with diabetes need a combination of medical treatment and a healthy lifestyle to manage their condition and prevent complications: www.worlddiabetesday.org

This year's Movember campaign took place to raise awareness and funds to support men's health including prostate and testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention: <https://uk.movember.com/>

Public Health England Winter health messaging includes the Flu Fighter and Stay Well This Winter, campaigns which we are helping to promote.

New Beginnings

The Cancer Alliance is pleased to welcome:



Victoria Breglia, Macmillan User Involvement Manager. Bringing a wealth of experience, Victoria will be working with the Cancer Alliance to ensure service users across the Cheshire and Merseyside Region are represented and are central to the transformational changes and improvement of cancer pathways.

For more information please email: victoria.breglia@nhs.net



Chris Redwood, Early Diagnosis Project Manager. Chris makes an excellent addition to the Alliance team, bringing experience in project management to support the expansion of the early diagnosis programme, which now includes prostate and oesophago-gastric pathway work and MDT Optimisation.

For more information please email: chris.redwood@nhs.net

If you would like us to inform colleagues of new starters, please send the information through to alison.jones61@nhs.net

Contact Us

We would love to have your feedback and please tell us about the positive work taking place, your good news and successes and share best practice across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Please submit any content for inclusion to ccf-tr.admin.cmca@nhs.net or email alison.jones61@nhs.net

Improving Cancer Care Together