

East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board Briefing Note

Meeting held 23rd September 2024

For the attention of EMCA Board members, Accountable Officers, CEOs, Cancer Senior Responsible Officers (SROs), Cancer Managers and Cancer Leads in ICSs and Trusts:

The East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) Board met on 23rd September 2024 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 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.

Vicky Millward, Managing Director reflected on her first two months in role highlighting the new government's commitment to the cancer agenda and recently published Darzi Report with a cancer focus on early diagnosis. She noted the huge work programme EMCA has and shared some of the successes so far from the improvement in cancer waiting times including faster diagnosis within 28 days of referral for those without a cancer diagnosis. Strategies had been launched for early diagnosis and genomics and there had been timely progress in targeted early diagnosis pilots in the national lung health check work in Notts and Northants, a Derby prostate case finding pilot and a centralised database for liver surveillance. People with cancer and with complex psycho-social needs in East Midlands could now be supported, thanks to a jointly funded programme of work by Macmillan and EMCA. In supporting the workforce there had been excellent uptake of an Aspirant Nurse programme launched by EMCA last year.

EMCA Board Terms of Reference (TOR's)/Finance Committee

Revised terms of reference for the Board were received noting the addition to the membership of the NHSE regional senior responsible officer for cancer. Board meeting dates would be refreshed to enable oversight of the quarterly cancer plan submissions to the national team. Terms of reference for a new Finance Committee to the Board were approved. Proposals requiring more than £1 million would require the Finance committee approval. The Committee would be set up by January 2025.

EMCA Development Programme

Vicky Millward presented the EMCA development programme proposal to support the core team, key system leaders and local authority to enhance collaboration across the various healthcare networks and local authority boundaries. The principle was supported and quotes from suppliers would now be sought.

EMCA Team Structure

Vicky Millward shared the proposed enhanced management structure with the Board. EMCA was the 3rd largest Cancer Alliance with a small team of fifteen people. The Board supported the expansion plans in principle. Recruitment to vacancies and new posts would enable EMCA to get on the front foot engaging more with members regionally and driving up standards and care. Recruitment would take several months with a plan to recruit to all levels by April 2025.

Finance Report

Finance update provided Vicky Millward in the absence of Seb Richards, Nottingham Finance Lead. Funds totalling £31 million had been split across ICBs with 50% transacted to systems to date. EMCA was working with systems on the details to evidence return on investment.

Transformation Programme Status

A summary of the programmes with the highlight report would be circulated to the Board after the meeting for feedback with the intention that the summary could be used at future ICB meetings. Going forward these would be routinely made available with programme lead presentation at the Board.

Early Diagnosis Staging Dashboard Presentation

Haydn Williams, Senior Data Analyst presented a dashboard for early diagnosis showing the national 75% early diagnosis target by 2028 from the contributing workstreams. EMCA would work with ICBs to agree local targets so a regional and ICB overview of early diagnosis could be used to report on progress.

Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) Presentation

Professor David Baldwin and Aisha Minhas provided an update on the TLHC programme. Nationally the programme was already a success with 30% eligible population coverage with 4,500 cancers diagnosed at stage 1 or 2. East Midlands pilot areas in Mansfield, Ashfield, Nottingham City and Corby have invited nearly 65,000 people with 57% attendance and 131 people diagnosed at stage 1 or 2. Plans are now in place to expand across all ICSs from now into 2025/26.

Multi-Disciplinary Team – Review Optimise Streamline Evaluate (MDT-ROSE)

Mr Alastair Simpson, EMCA Clinical Director provided an update from the MDT ROSE programme which included two regional projects, five local MDT initiatives and a regional support package for MDTs. This included the impact on cancer waiting times for a UHL urology MDT initiative and a video with evaluation feedback on the 'Talent for Care' programme of support for MDT's.

ICB and Trust Cancer Updates

Representatives from individual systems and Trusts provided updates. No escalation of risk or issue reported.

Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

TLHC 3rd phase commenced in Hucknall and Sherwood. 250+ cancers now diagnosed with 65% early diagnosis rate; this will increase as the surveillance programme has initiated. Plans are progressing to invite 100% of the eligible population in the next 2 years. NUH backlog pressure remains with lung remaining an area of concern. MDT ROSE and digital solutions especially text referrals have helped the progress to improve the status. Planned reductions in cancer backlogs aim to be met at the end September 2024.

Lincolnshire

TLHC hosted first marketing event for suppliers. ICB operating model changes mean the 'living with cancer programme team' will become a hosted function outside of the ICB. Concerns remain on the backlog and calls continue with NHSE although not in tiered status.

Northamptonshire

Meeting faster diagnosis times and now require more focussed work on early diagnosis. They are considering use of software which supports self-referral pathways between primary and secondary care. Changes in FIT thresholds had significantly increased referrals from FIT tests and positive results. Similar experiences were noted in Notts systems which they had worked through over the years feeding back to GPs and adjusting secondary care pathways in response.

Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland

TLHC: All staff recruited & 1st scan due May 2025. National liver surveillance pilot extended to December 2024 and a self-referral chest x-ray pilot in Coalville starting Nov 2024. ICB planning to support voluntary sector alongside EMCA Advancing Cancer Equity (ACE) programme applications. Faster Diagnosis standard had been met for the last 11 months but August performance may dip below the standard. UHL is in tier 2 status due to unmet 62-day treatment targets. This has been impacted due to insufficient radiotherapy capacity with mutual aide in place with a 5th LINAC machine coming online by end of 2024/25.

Derbyshire

TLHC: Clinical Director in post and a steering group set up to meet soon. UHDB in tier 2 with a focus on operational performance. ICB refreshing prevention and early diagnosis programme, exploring wider links to other non-cancer programmes.

Specialised Commissioning

Jon Gulliver, Specialist Commissioning Manager provided an update on Robotic Assisted Laparoscopic Prostatectomy (RALP) capacity. NGH participating in an assurance process ahead of a decision on accreditation to undertake partial nephrectomies. Oncology remains a key area of concern with ongoing work through East Midlands Acute Providers (EMAP) and Operational Delivery Networks (ODN) including a workforce project across the Midlands.

Public Health Screening

Stephanie Cook, Public Health Screening Lead presented the breast screening report with the most recent published data. Following tender, NUH had won the contract for the local bowel screening hub initiating from April 2025. Awaiting evaluation results from a cervical smear self-sampling pilot in London before considering rolling out the pilots in East Midlands.

Workforce Planning

Alison Broughton, Transformation Manager provided an update on workforce, training, and education including funding for CNS and chemotherapy nurse training, with further update on the award of 22 apprenticeships in diagnostics. EMCA Aspirant Nurse experiential programme launched in Oct 2023 was evaluating well with plans to expand into primary care. The recently launched national Aspirant Cancer Career & Education Development framework (ACCEND) and Aspirant nurse frameworks would be combined so that programme would be embedded throughout the workforce.

Any Other Business

Agenda items for future board meetings were discussed.

Items for Information.

Latest EMCA Newsletter – link attached for information.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/lpg3w3128Jfeezn3?ref=Link>

Feedback for website

[Feedback Form - East Midlands Cancer Alliance](#)

Darzi Report

[Independent Investigation of the National Health Service in England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Date of next Board Meeting:

25th November 2024 @ 3.00pm – 5.00pm – face to face, County Hall, Glenfield Road, Leicester, LE3 8RA

EMCA ICB Leads contact details:

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