

THAMES VALLEY CANCER ALLIANCE BULLETIN #15 – MARCH 2021

Please note that documents referenced in this bulletin; are all available on our NHS Futures workspace

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

- **TVCA Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign (Week 4)** We have had another great week promoting our **#KnowYourCancerRisk** lung cancer campaign, Anant Sachdev has been busy recording interviews for Wycombe Sounds and [Bucks radio](#) stations. Please do keep sharing your tweets and messages via your social media and websites – we are really grateful for all your continued support. We have had such a positive response from Vaccination Centres, who have been happy to include lung cancer awareness pull-up banners in their buildings so we have sent out 17 to the following [Vaccination Centres](#). Contact: pete.hunt@nhs.net
- **RDS** rapid diagnostic service plan: With thanks to trust and CCG colleagues who joined the RDS socialisation sessions last week. It was great to hear positive reinforcement for the TVCA RDS plan focused on **improved patient experience and time to diagnosis**. We will also be looking for greater clinical involvement, thank you to all who confirmed their participation. Key next steps: 1) Finance review to support MOU development for RDS funds 2) Site specific pathway reviews for lung (all trusts) colorectal (BHT and OUH 1st wave pilot sites) 3) Agreed roll out plan for 21/22 to go to Exec Board 20th April. Finally, we are delighted to be welcoming **Gaynor Chart as the TVCA RDS Implementation Manager** from end of April onwards, Gaynor will be the central RDS contact and liaison with trusts across TVCA. Contact: ruth.wilcockson@nhs.net
- We are delighted to invite ALL Thames Valley Primary Care staff to a short lunchtime session to discuss the differences between patients presenting with **Lung Cancer and COVID-19 symptoms**. This webinar will be hosted by Thames Valley Cancer Alliance, with presentations from Dr Anant Sachdev (TVCA Clinical Lead & CRUK Strategic GP) and Carolyn Mackinlay (Lung Cancer Lead, Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust). There will also be the opportunity to ask questions during the session. This webinar is part of the TVCA Lung Cancer Awareness Campaign and staff can use [this link to register](#). An MS Teams invite will be sent to all registered staff nearer the time. We will send out a separate email to all CCG Cancer Leads also, and we ask them to **please communicate out this webinar in their GP Newsletters (and via other mediums)** on a rolling basis until the session.
- **Head and Neck: Care Closer to Home Pilot and Evaluation:** In 2018, the head and neck cancer patient pathway was redesigned to enable residents of Swindon and Wiltshire, who receive their treatment for head and neck cancer at the Oxfordshire University Hospitals (OUH), to receive an increased proportion of their follow up and rehabilitation support much closer to home at the Great Western Hospital NHSFT (GWH) in Swindon. It was estimated that the redesigned patient pathway would affect 65 - 70 Swindon and Wiltshire CCG patients each year. Now the service has been running for a number of years, TVCA have commissioned the Central, South and West Commissioning Support Unit (CSU) to complete an external evaluation of the pilot. It is proposed the evaluation will have three primary aims:



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- Evaluate the impact of the redesigned pathway on patient experience looking at factors such as cancer waiting time standards and quality of life.
- Generate an evidence base to support the economic case for the pilot. The evaluation will set out to assess the financial sustainability to support discussions with commissioners and in doing so should look at aspects such as efficiencies generated.
- Provide an assessment for wider roll-out of the interventions, considering the 'critical success factors' which would allow similar results to be secured in other contexts, and the extent to which the evaluation findings support the wider roll-out of the interventions across Thames Valley.

The CSU hope to have an interim report by June 2021 and the full evaluation report ready by September 2021. A small working group of relevant colleagues is currently being set up and we look forward to sharing the results of the evaluation with our stakeholders in due course. Contact Hannah.hollis@nhs.net

- **TVCA Cancer Allies Programme:** Based on the principles of co-production to support national awareness campaigns, we have established a local rolling programme to seeking and build continuous and meaningful engagement with diverse ethnic community groups and leaders to address the health inequalities and poorer outcomes. Our aims are to;
 - develop **targeted** cancer campaign messaging designed to raise awareness of cancer signs and symptoms;
 - improve the knowledge and understanding within specific communities – recognising **one size doesn't fit all**;
 - understand and support actions to address challenges faced within communities;
 - Provide reassurance it is safe to attend GP practices;
 - Promote acting early improves outcomes.

Our next programme meeting will be focused on agreeing the development of the targeted campaign messaging for the identified communities within the four key areas of Swindon, Wycombe, Banbury and Slough. Contact: monique.audifferen@nhs.net

- The Cancer Rehab team in Bracknell are hosting an online virtual "**Support, Information and Advice for Unpaid Carers**" session, on Tuesday 30th March 2021 from 2pm to 3pm. It will be run by Nina Crispin from Reading Borough Council and Karen Bonnick from TuVida - The Carers' Hub. They will cover issues that affect unpaid carers, who are often family members or friends looking after their loved one. Often these people may not consider themselves as 'carers', but there is help and advice out there. For further information contact the Team via; cancer.rehabilitation@nhs.net or [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- **TVCA Website.... Coming Soon:** We are developing a dedicated TVCA website where you will be able to find out more about the role of the Alliance, our team and partners, what we are working on and the ambitions for delivery of the Long term plan for cancer. The website will be launched in April... further details to follow! Website contact: monique.audifferen@nhs.net

OTHER CANCER UPDATES

- NHSE/I Public Health Commissioning and Operations have confirmed they are sighted and aware of the following articles relating to the impact of the COVID-19 vaccine on lymphadenopathy (see [here](#) and [here](#)), where some clinicians are suggesting that women delay their breast screening appointment for up to 4-6 weeks after receiving the vaccination. Please note that **there are no current changes to screening guidance and PHE will be cascading a note to this effect.**



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- **Gateway C** are running two free webinars this month: Register here: <https://bit.ly/3u7YQpn> for Wednesday 17, March 1-2pm; **'Headache or Brain Tumour?'** and to attend Wednesday 31, March 1-2pm; **'Palliative Care for Cancer Patients'**, register here: <https://bit.ly/37FgvLM>
- Macmillan Cancer Support have shared details of **5 new iHOPE self-management programmes** they will be running this year, for people living with cancer. [A flyer with further information is on our workspace.](#)
- **Specialty guidance for cancer** is on the NICE website on their Covid-19 pages: <https://www.nice.org.uk/covid-19/specialty-guides>

CONTACT US: ENGLAND.TVCAADMIN@NHS.NET



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