

## London Cancer Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board Annual Report 2016-17

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### Introduction

London Cancer incorporates the geographical areas of North Central and East London and West Essex with a population of 3.7 million.

*London Cancer* became part of the newly formed UCLH Cancer Collaborative in September 2016.

The Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board is a cancer care specific board led by Mr Simon Whitley as Tumour Pathway Director. Its membership includes representation from cancer professionals across the region and active participation from primary care and from patients.

The role of these pathway boards is to improve cancer care for patients, delivering an integrated care pathway that extends from presentation and diagnosis through to palliative care and living with and beyond cancer.



Mr Simon Whitley, *London Cancer* Head and Neck Pathway Director

### Achievements this year

2016/17 has seen the Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board become part of the newly formed UCLH Cancer Collaborative, part of the national Cancer Vanguard as part of the New Care Models programme of NHS England.

Following the centralisation of Head and Neck cancer surgery at UCLH in December 2015 in 2016/17 we have had a focus on refining and understanding the challenges within this pathway following a system change.

Our key achievements have been:

- Establishing an online Oral Cancer Toolkit for dentists
- Establishing a best practice timed pathway for Head and Neck cancer
- Holding workshops with administration staff to identify opportunities for more collaborative working across this pathway which can often involve two or more Trusts
- Establishing a programme of quarterly network wide half day audit sessions
- Aligning sMDT operational policies for the two network sMDTs with the aim of reducing variation
- Recruiting a dedicated data manager at the surgical centre to enable better data and outcome collection

## Patient representation

In 2016/17 we have been fortunate to have regular input from Tony Smith, patient representative. In December 2016 Shrenik Shah also attended the board, who visited the UK from India to exchange thoughts and share his story having had a laryngectomy 20 years ago. Shrenik uses an Electrolarynx and leads a fully independent, active life.

## Future plans

In 2017/18 we will look to undertake a more systematic review of services post re-configuration, and to go through the Gateway 5 process. Our work plan is outlined below.

*“As a patient representative in this past year I have found that I have been able to contribute, in a small way, to the objectives of the Pathway Board by putting the patient perspective to the Topics discussed. I feel this has been especially important regarding quality of life discussions. It has been very encouraging to me that the Chairperson and Board members have seemed interested in what I have had to say and appear to encourage me to speak from the patient’s point of view.”*

Tony Smith – patient representative

No	Objective	Owner	Delivery date(s)
1	To review the provision of head and neck cancer services across the network against the service specification and address any variation in patient care and experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To include a review of the current SMDT arrangements and possible reconfiguration to a network wide SMDT</li></ul>	SW	March 2018
2	To improve delivery against the agreed timed pathway <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To include administration workshops and communication across the network</li><li>To implement the relevant recommendations set out in the MDT Improvement report to improve MDT efficiency and timeliness of pathways</li></ul>	SW	September 2017
3	To improve one-year survival through better early detection and diagnosis	SW	Ongoing
4	To improve the collection of activity and outcomes data <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Working with the Centre for Cancer Outcomes to develop a network wide database</li></ul>	SW, MM	March 2018
5	CNS working group to deliver improved pathways for patients with tracheostomies and other complex needs	AH, SO	Dec 2017
6	To improve recruitment to established trials and coordinate current local research opportunities	AS	Ongoing
7	Patient experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Development of network wide Head and Neck specific patient experience surveys</li><li>Review of national patient experience data for Head and Neck patients</li></ul>	SO, SW	Ongoing

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board for contributing their time to Tumour Pathway Board meetings and projects outside the meeting.

Particular thanks to our patient representative Tony Smith who has generously given up his time to contribute.