

## **London Cancer Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board Annual Report 2017-18**

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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. Since 2016, London Cancer has become one of the six principal programme of the UCLH Cancer Collaborative.

The Head and Neck Cancer Tumour Pathway Board is a cancer specific board which was led by Mr Simon Whitley until November 2017. In December 2017 Dr Russell Moule took over 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 each pathway board is to understand any variation in practice and set standards that take advantage of planning whole pathways of cancer care for a large population. This drive to improve cancer care for patients covers an integrated care pathway that extends from presentation and diagnosis through to palliative care and living with and beyond cancer.



Dr Russell Moule, Head and Neck Pathway Director, Consultant Oncologist at UCLH

### **Achievements this year**

Following the centralisation of Head and Neck cancer surgery at UCLH in December 2015, we undertook a formal 'Gateway 5' review of the change which was presented to the Cancer Vanguard Board in September 2017. This included a review of patient outcomes, patient experience and the views of staff who work in the service. Following this review, it was agreed that the network should focus on unification of the two existing specialist MDTs (SMDTs) and in November 2017 this was established as a formal workstream reporting into the Cancer Vanguard Board. In April 2018, Mr Paul Stimpson, Royal London SMDT chair and consultant surgeon, was recruited as a clinical lead for this work.

Our key achievements have been:

- Undertaking the 'Gateway 5' review of Head and Neck Cancer Surgery Reconfiguration including:
  - A patient experience survey for patients who have had surgery
  - A review of patient outcomes including unplanned visits to theatre, emergency readmission and mortality
  - Cancer waiting time performance
  - The recommendations from this review are currently being implemented
- Establishing the SMDT unification project
  - Holding three steering group sessions and a workshop for the whole network (Feb 2018)
  - Securing additional resources including recruitment of clinical lead and project management support for the project
  - Independent review of both existing SMDTs
- Facilitating bilateral meetings between Trusts to support intertrust cancer pathway 62 day performance

UCLH Cancer Collaborative brings together hospital trusts, GPs, health service commissioners, local authorities and patients across north and east London and west Essex.

- Supporting a programme of quarterly network wide half day audit sessions
- Establishing a working group to redesign pre-assessment pathways
- Development of a Head and Neck Cancer MDT scorecard to improve visibility of data collected. This is in place for UCLH and will be rolled out to other Trusts in 2018/19

### Patient representation

In 2017/18 we have been fortunate to have regular input from Tony Smith, patient representative. In December 2017 Vanessa Smith re-joined the board as a patient representative.

### Future plans

In 2018/19 we will focus on implementation of the recommendations of the Gateway 5 review. Our work plan is outlined below.

No	Objective	Owner	Delivery date(s)
1	To deliver the unification of Head and Neck specialist MDTs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 by September 2018</li> <li>• Monthly reporting to the Cancer Vanguard Board</li> </ul>	PS	March 2019
2	To improve delivery against the agreed timed pathway through completion of agreed bilateral actions	RM/YB	July 2018
3	To improve one-year survival through better early detection and diagnosis	RM/YB	Ongoing
4	To support network communications and governance and improve the collection of activity and outcomes data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through supporting quarterly audit days and a regular schedule of audits</li> <li>• Working with the Centre for Cancer Outcomes on MDT scorecards</li> </ul>	FV/SA/EB RM/YB	March 2019
5	To review Head and Neck cancer pathways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To include the redesign of pre-assessment pathways</li> <li>• To include improvements in information transfer</li> </ul>	RM/SO/ YB	Dec 2018
6	To improve recruitment to established trials and coordinate current local research opportunities	AS/MF	Ongoing
7	Patient experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of oncology patient Head and Neck specific patient experience survey</li> <li>• Review of information for Head and Neck cancer patients and standardisation across the network</li> </ul>	SO/KG KG	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.