

Meeting of the *London Cancer* Radiotherapy Expert Reference Group

Date: **Monday 22nd January 2018, 16:00-18:00**

Venue: 6th floor East Meeting Room, 250 Euston Road, London, NW1 2PG

Chair: **Kevin Sullivan**

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and minutes from the last meeting

- KS welcomed members of the board, introductions were made and apologies heard. The minutes of the last ERG meeting were accepted as an accurate record with minor amendments made.

2. Local Updates (capacity/demand issues, staffing, procurement)

- **NMUH**- The LINAC replacement has not been moved forward, David Sloman the accountable officer for NMUH has been escalating this with NHSE and there has been an agreement that they will review funding for the next financial year (18/19).
- Staffing – Temporary cover may be required due to several radiographers leaving on maternity leave. Physics is fully staffed and currently in the process of recruiting a new band 8a. A new consultant has been appointment but there is still once vacancy for a breast oncologist. This is currently being covered by a locum. Currently one consultant is on long term sick leave but this is being covered internally.
- KS asked the board if there were enough applicants for radiographer posts. There is a lot of interest for band 5 and 6 but less applicants for band 7 and 8.
- **BHRUT**- The second LINAC has been removed in the last couple of weeks, turnkey works are currently happening at the moment. The new EDGE will be delivered in February and will go live 6 weeks later. BHRUT is now a reference site for Varian, a visit from Germany has already happened and they are expecting one from India in early February.
- HSL will be leaving the trust, their last day will be this Friday. They will be leaving both radiotherapy and chemotherapy but the machines will stay and be managed by the trust.
- Staffing – There are currently vacancies for a 12 month fixed term band 7 post and two band 6 posts. No physics or consultant representatives present at the meeting to provide an update however no issues have been identified.
- **Barts Health**- Barts Health are hoping to replace their CT scanner in the next financial year. Activity remains constant
- Staffing – Currently advertising for 2.8 radiographers. Consultant posts are currently understaffed. Physics is currently fully staffed however a development plan across the department is being developed to review staffing requirements.
- **Royal Free**- Grant Stewart has now left the trust and Liz Barber will be retiring in March. The new LINAC will be delivered in March
- Staffing – There will soon be a vacant band 6 radiographer post and an advert is currently out for a band 7 post.

- **UCLH-** The 4th and final trubeam was installed a couple of weeks ago, this will go clinical in May. The department has a new clinical lead Naomi Fersht.
- Staffing – Band 5 and 6 interviews took place in December, two permanent and 5 fixed term posts were filled. Two 8a proton superintendents are out to advert at the moment.

ACTION:

- **Invite Naomi Fersht to the ERG board.**

3. Patient Experience

- Defer to next meeting

4. Contingency Plan

- The contingency plan document discussed in the last meeting between Barts Health and the Royal Marsden.
- Volunteers to work on a network wide contingency plan within London Cancer have already been found from NMUH and RFH however CU would like another volunteer from UCLH. Currently the two volunteers are radiographers.
- CU highlighted that this process should not take too long as the process has already been established by Royal Marsden and Barts Health.
- CU agreed that the contingency plan documentation will be available for the next ERG meeting.

ACTION:

- **UCLH to approach volunteers to join the contingency plan working group**
- **CU to present the contingency plan at the next ERG meeting for sign off**

5. NHSE Consultation

- ME highlighted that NMUH had not submitted another response to the NHSE consultation since 2016 which was shared with KS.
- BH have not currently submitted a response but are planning on doing so. The deadline to respond is on the 24th Jan 2018.
- RFH have also not currently responded.
- UCLH have just completed their response and are planning to submit before the deadline.
- KS asked the board if they would like to collate a joint response from London Cancer.
- GA highlighted that there was a response being sent out from the royal college
- DD informed the board that the national CRG have informed him that the implementation date will be 1st April 2018 and have asked networks to submit plans on how they would meet the new criteria.
- The ERG felt that there would not be enough time to submit a collective response.

6. AOB

- **Low Dose Brachytherapy** – Barts Health clarified that they have capacity for the network to refer patients for low dose Brachytherapy and that this should be made clear to the Urology pathway

board. Barts Health have the capacity for 50 cases a year and are currently only doing 20. KS asked for the referral information to be sent to JG for wider distribution.

- **Radium 223** – NR highlighted that clinical oncologists from UCLH, RFH and NMUH have collectively written to NHSE to highlight that radium 223 does not need to be centralised. Currently this is only offered in 4 centres across London Guys, Royal Marsden, Mount Vernon and BHRUT. The evidence shows that this treatment can be offered at local sites. Patients have also written to MPs to address this which is not beneficial for patient experience.
- Barts Health are also interested in offering Radium 223 locally.
- Currently there are about 20/30 patients receiving this treatment who originated at RFH
- **Radiotherapy Joint Venture** – ME provided an update on the discussions happening across NCL in regards to working more collaboratively between RFH, NMUH and UCLH for radiotherapy. Currently these discussions are on hold, David Sloman is keen to merge the departments between RFH and NMUH which are now part of the Royal Free Hospitals group. David Sloman is then keen to open discussions of further collaboration with UCLH.
- NMUH and RFH will also be part of a new project focussing on the improved data capture of PROMS. This will be using a product called stici which uses AI and is developed in collaboration with clinicians.
- KS highlighted that UCLH has now signed a memorandum of understanding with Mount Vernon to collaborate cancer services within 3 streams: research and trials; non in patient care; and efficiencies across Radiotherapy. The first collaboration board will be meeting on 6th Feb 2018.
- The Radiotherapy stream will feed into the ERG.
- KS highlighted that he will be stepping down as the chair of the Radiotherapy ERG meeting. He has discussed this with Kathy Pritchard-Jones who will be in touch with an expression of interest. KS also thanked Liz Barber for her part in the ERG board.

ACTION:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CU to share referral information for low dose brachytherapy with JG • JG to relay referral information for low dose brachytherapy with the Urology pathway board

ACTION LOG

Action reference	Action	Owner	Date Due	Status
Oct03	JG to send reminders to each pathway board to send/update their guidelines	JG	ON GOING	
Oct05	Patient experience results to be presented at the meeting after the January meeting.	DK	-	
Jan01	Naomi Fersht to be invited to the ERG board	JG	20/02/2018	
Jan02	UCLH representatives to approach colleagues to volunteer for the contingency plan working group	UCLH representatives	20/02/2018	

Jan03	CU to present contingency plan at next ERG meeting	CU	-	
Jan04	CU to send JG low dose brachytherapy referral information	CU	01/02/2018	
Jan05	JG to relay referral information for low dose Brachytherapy to Urology pathway board	JG	01/03/2018	

Attendees

Name	Role	Trust/Organisation
Jacob Goodman	JG	<i>London Cancer</i>
Kevin Sullivan	KS	<i>London Cancer</i>
Stuart McCaighy	SM	BHRUT
Mark Elsworthy	ME	NMUH
Anna Thompson	AT	NMUH
Christine Usher	CU	Barts
Liz Barber	LB	RFL
Kashmira Mehta	KM	RFL
Nicola Rosenfelder	NR	RFL
Anne Nauth-Misir	ANM	Barts
Patricia Dean	PD	Patient Representative
Derek D'Souza	DD	UCLH
Neil Burley	NB	UCLH
Girija Anand	GA	NMUH
Dersna Kuverji	DK	NMUH

Apologies

Name	Initials	Trust/Organisation
Neil Dancer	ND	Royal Free
Elizabeth Crees	EC	BHRUT
Grant Stewart	GS	RFL
Maria Vilarino-Valera	M V-V	Royal Free
Emily Collins	EC	UCLH Cancer Collaborative