



North Thames Children's Cancer Network Coordinating Group (CCNCG) Annual Report 2017-18

Introduction

The North Thames Children's Cancer Network (NT-CCNCG) serves a population of 8.36 million people across North Central and East London, Essex, Mount Vernon and North West London. Since 2016 the CCNCG became part of the UCLH Cancer Collaborative, part of the national Cancer Vanguard. The NT-CCNCG is the network that hosts the Principal Treatment Centres (PTCs) at Great Ormond Street Hospital and UCLH. There are 16 Paediatric Oncology Shared Care Units (POSCUs) in the network, which provide treatment closer to the child's home.

The North Thames CCNCG is chaired by Prof Darren Hargrave.

The CCNCG is responsible for driving improvement across the whole care pathway for children. The Board's membership includes multi-disciplinary representation from cancer professionals across the region and active participation from primary care and from patients.

The role of the 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.

Reflections from the Chair *"During 2017/18 several members of the NT-CCNCG have played major roles working with the NHS England Clinical Reference Group in a national review of Children's and Young Peoples cancer services. This has resulted in the development of drafting new national service specifications and we are now well placed to work with commissioners to implement these changes to improve outcomes and the experiences for children with cancer in North Thames and elsewhere."*

Achievements this year

This year we have had a focus on network governance, communication between PTCs and shared care units and engagement with the work of the National Clinical Reference Group for Children and Young People. It is also pleasing to see at the national level that survival rates from childhood cancer continue to improve – 5yr survival is predicted to be 84% for those diagnosed in 2017. For more information [click here](#).



Prof Darren Hargrave, CCNCG
Director, Paediatric Neuro-
Oncologist at Great Ormond Street
Hospital

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

Our key achievements for 2017/18 have been:

- Updating the membership and constitution of the Board
- Holding a Pan-London Children's Cancer Education Event in May 2017
- Undertaking an audit/survey of communications between POSCUs and PTCs
- Review of 2ww proforma usage and whether referrals are being made appropriately
- The 3rd annual Network Patient service demonstrating continued improvement in patients and family experience.
- UCLH have been working with colleagues in Manchester to develop the National Proton beam service- will open at UCLH in 2020.

Patient representation

The network has hosted family, parental days to discuss topics such as end of treatment and education, which have been co-designed with parent representatives.

Future plans

In 2018/19, in anticipation of the final published national review of Children's and Young Peoples cancer services we have already been in discussion with commissioners to work with them jointly in preparing to address and implement change in the North Thames region. Both PTCs will be implementing a new Electronic Health Record (EPIC) in 2019 and this will allow the opportunity to develop a new online patient portal and improve sharing of data between network providers. We have appointed a new dedicated consultant at GOSH to work specifically with POSCUs in sharing care with leukaemia, which will facilitate and allow piloting of new ways of working across the network. The preparations for the UCLH proton service will be increasing in intensity as the date to come online in 2020 approaches.

Our work plan is outlined below;

No	Objective	Owner	By
1	Engagement with CRG/national work	DH	On-going
2	Work with NHSE (London) to scope and implement the national review for North Thames	DH/KPJ/MM	April 2019
3	Implementation of new EHR at both PTCs and development of a patient online portal	DH/MJ	April 2019
4	Pilot of POSCU communications/ MDTs	LR/ AL	March 2019

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the North Thames Children's Cancer Network Coordinating Group for contributing their time to Board meetings and projects outside the meeting.