

Northern Cancer Alliance Quarterly Newsletter



Northern Cancer Alliance 21/22 plan

NCA has had its workplan and resources for 21/22 agreed by the National Cancer Programme Team. This process starts with the national priorities being identified and shared and then Cancer Alliances are able to respond to these, highlighting local issues or differences that would influence the relative priority of objectives.

This year, in response to the Covid pandemic, we will be continuing to work to fully recover cancer services as well as re-starting work on the NHS Long term plan (www.longtempln.nhs.uk) objectives.

Working with stakeholders across the NCA through our strategic groups, detailed action plans are drawn up and resources allocated to prevent more cancers, transform cancer pathways and personalise cancer care.

Special points of interest:

Recovering cancer referrals

Working with communities to promote screening and awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer

Improving diagnostic and treatment capacity

Working with providers on rapid diagnostic pathways and efficient and accessible treatment delivery

Work with providers to ensure that waiting lists for investigation are recovered as soon as possible.

Working with the public to ensure that all our work focuses on the patient experience and the quality of the service wherever in our Alliance the service is delivered.

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Targeted Lung Health Check Programme



The Newcastle Gateshead Targeted Lung Health Checks Programme went live in March 2021, with the first Lung Health Checks carried out with patients from Walker Medical Group in Newcastle. Patients from St. Alban's will shortly be invited to a Lung Health Check.

The programme will gradually increase activity over the next few months until full capacity is reached and over the next two years, almost 50,000 patients aged 55-75 who have ever smoked will be invited to a Lung Health Check.

Over the programme's lifetime, it is expected that over 500 lung cancers, many of which will be found at an early stage, will be diagnosed. Diagnosing lung cancer at an early stage makes it more likely that curative treatment can be offered.

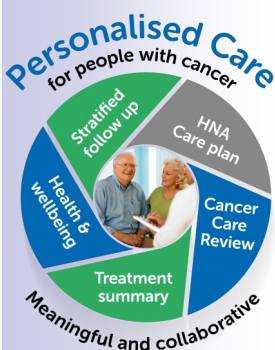
For further information about the Targeted Lung Health Check Programme visit www.yourlunghealthng.nhs.uk or email the Programme Manager elizabeth.stainthorpe@nhs.net

To view the patient information film developed to support the programme, click [here](#).

U16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey



U16 CPES launched at the end of April and is this first survey of its kind with the sole aim of listening to and improving cancer care for patients under the age of 16. For further information visit: [U16 Cancer Survey \(under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk\)](http://U16CancerSurvey(under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk))



NHS Galleri Trial



The Northern Cancer Alliance is pleased to announce that it has been chosen as one of the pilot sites for the NHS Galleri trial later this year.

This trial will assess the benefit of a new test that looks for potential signs of cancer in a sample of blood. Participants in the trial will be asked to give a sample of blood once a year, for three years.

Samples will be taken on a covid-safe mobile unit at sites across the North East

and North Cumbria. Where a cancer signal is detected people will be referred for investigation at their local hospital.

We are supporting this research as a potential new way to detect cancer. More information about the study will be shared as soon as it becomes available.

Rapid Diagnosis Centres

Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDCs) or pathways continue to be a core element of the Long Term plan and seen as a significant contribution to the pandemic recovery process.

RDCs are underpinned by [seven core principles](#) that allow any service pathway to be re-modelled with the patient at the centre of that thinking.

The national aim in 21/22 is for 50% of the population to have access to serious non-specific symptom pathways (sometimes referred to as a vague symptoms pathways).

Diagnosing cancer earlier and faster through:

- Early access**
So more cancers are diagnosed at stages 1 and 2 through greater use of low-dose computerised imaging for lung cancer, increased bowel cancer screening and better support for GPs.
- Whole pathway redesign**
Leading to standardised and streamlined care to reduce variation, greater use of MRI for prostate cancer and new screening tests for bowel cancer.
- Rapid Diagnostic and Assessment Centres**
Providing 'one-stop shops' for cancer diagnosis to reduce time-to-diagnosis and time-to-first treatment.
- Secondary care networks**
To share new ways of improving patients' experience of cancer care and making best use of our workforce.

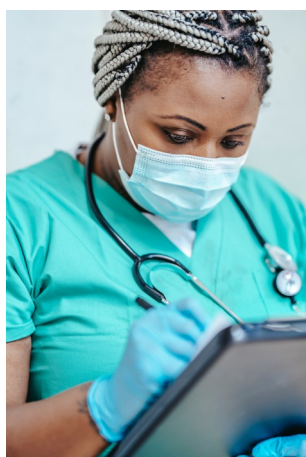
www.england.nhs.uk/cancer/strategy

The NCA hopes to have a 100% coverage for SNSS by the end of this year alongside developments in site specific services such as; combined upper and lower GI, breast, gynaecology and skin. Please note that the site specific developments will not be available in all areas this year. For further information click [here](#).

As noted earlier, a core part of the planning for these new services is the patient experience and especially how they understand the service from the community they live in. We are therefore working with our Trust colleagues to reach out to primary care, cancer champions and local VCSE organisations to ensure patients are aware of signs and symptoms and how these new pathways will operate, this can also be supported in the PCN cancer DES. View a patients experience of an RDC pathway [here](#).

If you would like to know more about the developments in your area and how you can support pathway implementation and development please get in touch at england.nca@nhs.net

Upper and Lower GI Combined Pathway



Clinicians in the NCA stated work prior to the pandemic, on a combined pathway to address the overlap in symptoms and streamline the investigation of people with abdominal symptoms which could indicate cancer.

Now, investigations are based on symptoms and not dependent on referral route. This includes weight loss, which is in the symptom profile of a number of upper and lower GI 2WW criteria as well as the developing serious non-specific symptoms pathways.

Learning from the pandemic facilitated the development and implementation. The key factors were; consultant led initial triage of referral; embedding the use of FIT in primary care before referral and a move to early use of CT for weight loss and abdominal pain.

For further information email england.nca@nhs.net

Communications and Engagement

Help Us Help You is a NHS and Public Health England campaign that urges the public to contact their GP if they experience potential signs and symptoms of cancer. The campaign is supported by a range of resources that are available [here](#).

The Northern Cancer Alliance has also produced a number of Help Us Help You campaign resources including short films featuring local people with lived experience, patient information leaflets and social media toolkits. These resources can be accessed [here](#).

Quality of life means different things to different people, but it matters to everyone. More people are surviving cancer than ever before - but living with cancer, and the effects of its treatment, can have a negative impact on some people's physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Public Health England, NHS England and NHS Improvement launched a nationwide Cancer QoL Survey to help us understand what matters to patients in September 2021. The information collected from the survey will help us to work out how best to support people living with and beyond cancer.. Read more [here](#).



Dates for your diary

2021						
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
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AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER		
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Training & events:

PCN Early Cancer Diagnosis DES 2021/22 workshop - 24/06/2021—1pm till 2.30pm. Join our conversations about Quality Improvement, addressing cancer inequalities, sharing resources, insights and good practice to improve patient outcomes, further details [here](#).

GatewayC Live is a programme producing live broadcast webinars for all healthcare professionals across England, but targeted at those in primary care. [Sign up today](#) to refresh your cancer knowledge, hear practical tips to improve patient experience and cancer outcomes, and join an optional live Q&A. Sessions 23/06 and 07/07 at 1pm.

Cancer Related Health Campaigns

June:

- * Do It For Yourself Lung Cancer Symptom Awareness Campaign launches on **28/06/2021**. For further details contact: Joannemackintosh@nhs.net

July:

- * [Sarcoma Awareness Month](#)



Useful Information and Resources

- * The NCA website includes a range of **FIT** related information for primary care colleagues and patients, access [here](#).
- * A slide set produced for an education session with first contact physios and MSK practitioners which could be used to provide some education within primary care. Access a copy of the presentation [here](#).
- * Recorded sessions from the **Alliance Bite Size Learning Event** held at the end of 2020 are available to listen again [here](#). Topics include personalised care, shared decision making, health inequalities and, end of life and palliative care.
- * **Lung Cancer**, see through the symptoms: a range of patient and professional resources for **primary care** available [here](#).

Contact Us



www.northerncanceralliance.nhs.uk

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