

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

4 NOVEMBER 2015

CANCER SERVICES

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to receive an update on Cancer Services in Worcestershire, in terms of the new changes made in cancer pathways, performance against the national cancer standards and developments both nationally and locally.
2. Representatives from service commissioners and also those who provide the service at Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust, have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. Cancer is a condition where cells in a specific part of the body grow and reproduce uncontrollably. The cancerous cells can invade and destroy surrounding healthy tissue, including organs. In the UK, cancers of the breast, lung, prostate and bowel account for over 50% of new cases.
4. More people are living longer after being diagnosed with cancer, due to better diagnosis and treatment and the NHS needs to consider how best to support those patients surviving cancer.
5. There are a range of national cancer performance standards that providers of cancer care are required to achieve, those standards include the two week for suspected cancer and the 62 day urgent referral pathway. In Worcestershire the current performance against these two standards is below the required level, in terms of the 62 day pathway, this position is consistent with the national position but for two week waits the local position is not consistent with the average performance across England.
6. Improving patient outcomes for cancer has been the subject of an Independent Cancer Taskforce, which recently published its report 'Achieving world class cancer outcomes; a strategy for England 2015-2020'. Subsequently, the Government has pledged that by 2020, people with suspected cancer will be diagnosed within 28 days of being referred by a GP.

Cancer Services in Worcestershire

7. The Commissioning and provision of cancer services is a complex area of NHS activity. In terms of Commissioning, then some aspects of the service are commissioned locally by Clinical Commissioning Groups, whilst other aspects like radiotherapy are commissioned by Specialised Services.

8. In terms of the provision of services, the large proportion of services, such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, palliative care and supportive services are delivered locally in Worcestershire by a number of organisations such as Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, (WAHT) Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, (WHACT) the three Hospices in the county and by primary care.

9. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust provides cancer services from a range of locations; the Worcestershire Oncology Centre on the Worcester Royal Hospital site provides radiotherapy services for patients in Worcestershire, some aspects of specialised radiotherapy are provided at regional centres such as University Hospital Birmingham.

10. The Acute Trust provide chemotherapy services at each of its three hospital sites in Worcester, Redditch and Kidderminster, the services are delivered from dedicated chemotherapy suites at each location. Surgical oncology services are also provided by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. A range of palliative care services are provided across the county by the three local Hospices, St Richards, Kemp and Primrose as well as by WAHT and there are some services provided by Worcestershire Health and Care Trust.

11. In January this year Worcestershire's new Oncology Centre opened its doors, enabling patients to be treated locally, avoiding journeys to Cheltenham, Coventry or Wolverhampton for daily radiotherapy treatment. The team of staff includes consultant oncologists, clinical physics staff, radiotherapy and nursing staff. The latest equipment enables more effective targeting of tumours, less damage to surrounding tissue and less risk of complications.

Purpose of the meeting

12. The Committee is asked to consider the update on Cancer Services and to identify and further information or scrutiny work required at this stage.

13. In doing so, HOSC members may want to reflect on:

- Worcestershire's service performance
- The need to find effective ways to support people surviving cancer
- The changes that will be needed in order to comply with the new NICE guidance "Suspected cancer referral and recognition".
- The need for effective links between all providers of cancer services and the need to ensure that patients have a key role in shaping and informing how cancer services are developed.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Summary of Cancer Services in Worcestershire.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of XXX) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Achieving world class cancer outcomes; a strategy for England 2015-2020 – available on the Cancer Research website [here](#)