



# Leeds Cancer Programme

Transforming  
cancer care  
together



**The Leeds Cancer Programme is a pioneering partnership which aims to transform cancer services across the city. We want to achieve the best in cancer care for the people of Leeds and work with all communities to ensure that everyone affected by cancer has access to the same high quality care.**

#### **The Leeds Cancer Programme aims to:**

- Reduce the number of new cases of preventable cancer, with a faster fall in more deprived populations
- Diagnose more cancers earlier when they are curable and see further improvements in survival, especially amongst the most deprived populations
- Leeds to be recognised nationally and internationally for its excellence in pioneering research, training, development and delivery of cancer treatment
- Provide the best support to patients living with and beyond cancer as well as their families and carers so they can lead as full and active a life as possible
- Patient experience and quality of life to drive improvements in care
- Co-ordinate and integrate local cancer services to deliver joined up care and share best practice
- Use our dedicated resources and our workforce in the most effective way.

#### **There are 4 key workstreams within the Leeds Cancer Programme:**

- Prevention, screening and awareness
- Early diagnosis
- Living with and beyond cancer
- High quality modern service.

Each workstream aims to deliver world-class cancer services, shaped by patients, carers and families, putting people affected by cancer at the heart of everything we do.

#### **The commissioning and delivery partners are:**

- Macmillan Cancer Support
- NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group
- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Leeds City Council.

We will also be working with a wide range of other health, social care and voluntary organisations to deliver the Leeds Cancer Programme's ambitions.



"Our Leeds Cancer Team have ambitious plans to make sure the care patients and their families receive is the best. It is only by working together that we can do this and thereby ensuring that we achieve the best possible outcomes for all."

Sean Duffy, Strategic Lead Cancer Clinician and Programme Director of the Leeds Cancer Programme

## Prevention, screening and awareness



Louise Cresswell

Ambition: "We want to see a fall in the number of new cases of preventable cancer year on year and a faster fall in more deprived populations."

Workstream leads: Louise Cresswell, Public Health Specialist (Cancer), Dr Andy Robinson, GP Clinical Lead and Lucy Jackson, Consultant in Public Health.

The workstream aims to:

- Support people to make healthy lifestyle choices with a particular drive to reduce smoking rates
- Work with communities and the voluntary sector to raise awareness of the signs of cancer and the opportunities for cancer screening
- Work in partnership with GP practices to increase cancer screening uptake
- Focus all programmes in areas of highest need (deprivation/vulnerable groups) in order to reduce cancer inequalities.



Helen Ryan

## Early Diagnosis

Ambition: "We want to ensure our patients receive a cancer diagnosis at the earliest stage and maximise the potential for curative treatment."

Workstream leads: Helen Ryan, Macmillan Project Lead (Early Diagnosis), Angie Craig, Assistant Director of Operations at LTHT and Rob Turner, Operation Clinical Cancer Lead, LTHT.

The workstream aims to:

- Work together to diagnose cancer sooner and improve survival rates
- Ensure those with a suspected cancer diagnosis get access to the right tests, first time
- Improve processes around patient referral from GP to hospital
- Provide quicker diagnosis for patients with vague symptoms

- Ensure more rapid diagnosis for patients
- Provide reassurance for those who don't have cancer more quickly
- Lead the way in commitment to early diagnosis by piloting national initiatives.

## Living with and beyond Cancer



Sarah Bradley-Wright

Ambition: "We will provide the best support to people affected by cancer to enable them to lead as full and active lives as possible to live with, or beyond, a diagnosis of cancer."

Workstream leads: Sarah Bradley-Wright, Macmillan Project Lead (Living With and Beyond Cancer) and Karen Henry, Lead Cancer Nurse (LTHT).

The workstream aims to:

- Adapt and improve our services to ensure the 50% of people now surviving cancer receive the best possible support
- Ensure those people who are diagnosed with treatable but incurable cancer have appropriate support to both live and die as well as possible
- Help the people who are surviving cancer to cope with the physical, emotional and financial effects of a cancer diagnosis and treatment
- Support people affected by cancer to continue their recovery in the most appropriate setting
- Improve communication between health professionals, people affected by cancer and their community so that care is co-ordinated and focussed on their needs.



"We want the best possible cancer outcomes for the people of Leeds. We believe that we can achieve this by working together across organisations to do things differently."

Sarah Forbes, Co-Chair of Leeds Integrated Cancer Programme and GP Cancer Lead.

## High quality modern service



Mike Harvey

Ambition: "Leeds will be recognised for its excellence in pioneering research, training, development and delivery of cancer treatments and survivorship."

Workstream leads: Mike Harvey, Assistant Director of Operations at LTHT and Julie Owens, Leeds Cancer Centre Manager.

The workstream aims to:

- Ensure Leeds is at the forefront in adopting new treatment technologies
- Be committed to bringing treatments where possible into community settings for our patients
- Work with partners to invest in and deliver world class research
- Ensure the best use of resources (the Leeds £).

### Spotlight on:

#### Early diagnosis – the ACE Programme

The Accelerate, Coordinate, and Evaluate (ACE) Programme is part of the Early Diagnosis workstream and is an innovative project which is helping to improve the route to diagnosis for patients with 'non-specific but concerning symptoms'.

Delivered jointly by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS Leeds CCG Partnership, it is one of six pilots being funded by Macmillan and Cancer Research UK as part of NHS England's Early Diagnosis initiative.

The National ACE programme: *accelerates* progress, *coordinates* implementation and consistently *evaluates* best practice and innovative approaches to early diagnosis of cancer. The project will benefit people with vague symptoms which their GP suspect might be cancer where they do not fit existing cancer referral pathways. It is hoped that this will lower thresholds for cancer suspicion where symptoms are unexplained.

So far the Leeds ACE Project Team have engaged with more than 70 GP practices and over 517 patients have been referred to the ACE pathway (as of July 2018). Access to the service for ambulatory patients coming to the attention of the Acute Medical teams has also been implemented.

Early experience has shown a reduced need for scans and endoscopic examinations as well an opportunity to shorten the diagnostic pathway and avoid hospital admissions. Cancer detections have been above 3% of referrals and other serious, non-cancer diagnoses have been identified.

Based on early findings there are plans to roll out the ACE model across the city, enabling all GP's across Leeds to refer and use the ACE pathway. The team will also be piloting the delivery of ACE within community hubs in GP practices and using the ACE model across other areas within LTHT, focussing first on the Upper Gastrointestinal Urgent Suspected Cancer Referral Pathway.

The team use a comprehensive set of basic blood tests, a detailed nurse-led clinical review and a Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Collaborative (MDC) meeting discussion to advance diagnosis and appropriate further testing or safety-netted observation. By conducting a range of tests at one time, it is hoped that the route to diagnosis will be smoother for patients and prevent them from being shuttled back and forth between their GP and different hospital departments.

Helen Ryan, Macmillan Project Lead for the Early Diagnosis workstream said: "These early developments are really exciting and we've had some fantastic patient feedback. There is still a lot of work to do but we're moving in the right direction."



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