



Media Release

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Spotlight on world-class Leeds services on World Cancer Day - 4 February

Cancer services in Leeds are rapidly developing to help the city reach its ambition for being the best city in the UK for Health and Wellbeing. Since 2016, external funding through the Leeds Cancer Programme has brought £3.5m to the city, alongside the breadth of services already provided by NHS in Leeds at the world-class Leeds Cancer Centre at St James' University Hospital.

In Leeds there are currently 27,000 people living with and beyond cancer and around 4,100 new diagnoses every year. To address this challenging climate, the Leeds Cancer Programme brings together Macmillan Cancer Support, the NHS in Leeds, Leeds City Council to work in partnership to transform cancer services across the city. Through its dynamic and ambitious strategy, it is committed to delivering the best outcomes for all in Leeds through world class cancer services shaped by patients, carers and the wider public.

The programme is working to address some of the lifestyle factors that can play a contributory role to people developing cancer. This includes reducing smoking rates, tackling obesity and other lifestyle factors which are thought to be responsible for 42% of cancer cases in the city. Improvements in cancer care mean that more people are living longer with cancer and need ongoing support which can put additional pressures on the health and care system in Leeds.

Leeds Cancer Programme Director Professor Sean Duffy:

“Leeds has seen improvements in cancer survival year on year and has some of the best services in the country to support our patients and their families. Leeds Cancer Centre is one of the best treatment sites in the UK where patients with a range of different cancers can access treatments. However, we are not complacent and need to continue our work to make this city the shining light of patient centred cancer care.”

**Leeds City Council Executive Board Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults
Cllr Rebecca Charlwood:**

“In Leeds we are proud of our preventative and early intervention measures around cancer. Our work should improve early detection rates and bring forward more timely treatment for many more people and is central to achieving the goal of being a health and caring city for all ages. Across the partnership we are determined to make Leeds the best city for Health and Wellbeing.”

Some of the initiatives brought to Leeds by the Leeds Cancer Programme include:

- The introduction of ‘Primary Care **Bowel Screening Champions**’ have ensured that between April and December 2018, 704 more screening tests have been by people who had not initially taken up the test and may not have done so. Bowel Screening Champions encourage and support people to take bowel screening test.
- The implementation of ‘**Teledermatology**’ technology in June 2018 ensured that 3,448 suspected skin cancer cases were diagnosed without needing to wait for, and attend a hospital based appointment, releasing capacity for those people who do need to be seen at hospital. .
- The new development of **ACE**, (Accelerate, Coordinate and Evaluate) Multi- Diagnostic Collaborative (MDC) Pathway for people with non-specific but concerning symptoms has received over 948 referrals to date. There have been 60 cancers diagnosed and a considerable number of significant non-cancer diagnoses. The ACE MDC diagnose people with vague but worrying symptoms to be diagnosed quicker, avoid multiple tests and avoid unnecessary overnight admissions.

World Cancer Day is an annual event held on the 4th February. Its aim is to empower all across the world to raise a collective voice about cancer, and to celebrate cancer in a positive and inspiring way.

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