

Update on Gynaecological Cancer Service Reconfiguration

1 Purpose of this report

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an update on the work being done around the reconfiguration of Gynaecological cancer services. In particular, the report updates on the work being done in response to the specific OSC resolution that:

‘Where possible NHS Plymouth and the Peninsula Cancer Network engage current and former patients in the service reconfiguration proposals and take advice on consultation from partner agencies’.

The accompanying paper and cover sheet sets out the work that has been done by those organisations in response to this resolution.

2 About the paper

The panel will see that the paper relates to all cancer pathways and not just the Gynaecological cancer services. This approach was developed on the advice of our stakeholders. Previous experience made it clear that it is very important that there is a consistent approach to involvement across cancer all services. The paper comprises two elements, the first an explanatory note from the Peninsula Cancer Network (Section 4) and the second the body of the report itself (section 5).

3 Involving Gynaecological cancer users

The approach described in the paper has, at the request of NHS Plymouth made a specific effort to ensure those patients and or their family members with experience of gynaecological cancer services are directly involved in this work and members of that community are amongst the members of the PPI group the paper describes.

The PPI group described in the paper is next due to meet on July 12 and the NHS Plymouth PPI lead will be able to provide a verbal update to the panel that includes the outcome of that meeting at which it is hoped the specifics around its future work plan will be decided.

4 Explanatory note

The Peninsula Cancer Network, which helps improve cancer services across Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, is strengthening the involvement of patients, carers and local people in its processes.

As outlined in our position paper of September 2010, this approach is in line with the report of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel on upper gastro-

intestinal cancers, which emphasises the growing importance of patient and public engagement in developing proposals, and the role of overview and scrutiny committees.

It also reflects the Department of Health's position that all potential reconfigurations must demonstrate strengthened public and patient engagement as well as:

- Support from GP commissioners
- Clarity on the clinical evidence base, *and*
- Consistency with current and prospective patient choice

It must be stressed that the approach will be used when addressing systematic improvements along the entire patient 'pathway' for all cancers, whether or not this might ultimately imply reconfiguration.

The main outcome so far from the increased emphasis on involvement has been the creation of a Working Group.

As the attached paper shows, considerable progress has been made, though much more needs to be done as the Working Group finds its feet. Our aim is to get things right, rather than to set any strict timetable.

Above all, the paper is designed to provide assurance that patient and public involvement is an integral part of the Network's processes for the development of cancer services.

The Network would be more than happy to provide you with further updates on the Working Group and other aspects of patient and public involvement, and/or to brief you in person, if that would be helpful.

John Harrison
Director
Peninsula Cancer Network

5 The report

The following report has been produced by the Peninsula Cancer Network.

Shaping Patient and Public Involvement in Cancer Services

Report from the Peninsula Cancer Network to Health Overview and Scrutiny
Committees in Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
June 2011

1. Introduction and context

The Peninsula Cancer Network (PCN) exists to secure equal access to high quality care for all cancer patients, strive for better clinical outcomes and improve the experience of patients, their carers and families throughout screening, diagnosis, treatment, aftercare and survival. The Network has an increasing role in the prevention of cancer and reducing health inequalities. To achieve these goals it collaborates with patients and their carers, all healthcare providers and commissioners, and key stakeholders throughout Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Network is committed to ensure that effective patient, carer and public involvement is integral to our work, putting patient, carer and public experience and involvement at the heart of cancer service design and delivery across the Peninsula. The Network recognises that designing its public and patient engagement strategy is not just an internal process. As a result the Network is working by means of a developmental approach to build the most effective strategy in an open and transparent way *with* those people who have the best knowledge of the impact of cancer care services. The users of services, together with their carers, families and the people who work with them in health, social and voluntary care have valuable and unique insights into their experience of and aspects of care. The Network wants to harness the deep knowledge and understanding of the people who use services, and the staff who deliver them, to improve cancer services.

The Network recognises the importance of working openly and constructively with Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees across the Peninsula in order to build effective patient, carer and public involvement. Regular communication and engagement with HOSCs, together with vital input, knowledge and feedback from HOSC members on the Network's approach, is central to this process.

This briefing paper provides:

- a **progress report** on the design of structures, methods and approaches to involvement across the Peninsula, including feedback from work with service users and key stakeholders
- the **continuing dialogue**

2. Designing involvement in the Peninsula – a progress report

Patients, carers and staff have been continuously involved in identifying structures, methods and approaches to involvement across the Peninsula. The Network has been able to draw on their experience, knowledge and views by means of:

- a **Patient Involvement Event** in September 2009

- ***working with an independent consultant in patient and public engagement*** (Cath Broderick, We Consult) to draw together and build on the ideas and priorities of those who had an interest in developing cancer services across the Peninsula and facilitate further engagement
- drafting ***User Involvement Principles and Strategic Framework*** which sets out some principles for achieving effective engagement across a wide and diverse geography using a variety of approaches * ([link to User Involvement Principles and Strategic Framework](#))
- holding two ***engagement events*** on 15th December 2010 and 18th March 2100 with a group of patients, carers and stakeholders to find out what methods of engagement would work well and incorporate their views on the principles, ideas and approaches set out in the draft framework * ([link to report of Engagement Event Dec 2010](#))

Feedback from the Engagement Event

A number of key themes emerged from discussions, activities and workshops at the event:

- ***Provide support*** through information, training , resources and administration
- ***Develop innovative methods for involvement***
- ***Ensure that there is clarity and reality*** about what can be achieved
- ***Develop relationships and reach out to communities and users***
- ***Focus on specific conditions***
- ***Capture perspectives not currently influencing*** the development and improvement of cancer services
- ***Review and utilise successful engagement, including good practice in Local Cancer User Groups***, potentially through pilots on specific topics
- ***Move the work forward by means of a Working Group*** to firm up the user involvement strategy, and define the blueprint for patient and public involvement across the Peninsula

The first meeting of the Working Group was held on the **7th June**, at which members discussed and agreed their terms of reference, membership roles and responsibilities and Chair selection process. As a result, I was asked to be the Interim Chair until the end of the year.

At their meeting on **12th July**, members are due to confirm the terms of reference and to define the priorities for a work plan. From early discussions, this is likely to include the role of the local cancer user groups and generic methodology for patient and public involvement with potential application to a pilot focused around a specific topic. They will also be able to determine the members who will represent the Group on the Network Board, enabling the Group to have a say in future decisions on cancer care in the Peninsula. * ([link to report of the Working Group March 2011](#))

Membership of the Group comprises:

- 2 members of each local cancer user group
- Peninsula Cancer Network staff; Nurse Director, Medical Director, User Facilitator
- External facilitator

3. The continuing dialogue

The future of patient and public involvement in cancer services across the Peninsula will not be determined solely by the recommendations of a Working Group or by the Peninsula Cancer Network. The Network is committed to continuing the development of structures, methods and approaches to involvement through dialogue and learning from pilots and feedback. The *User Involvement Principles and Strategic Framework* is a living document, subject to change and improvement, and will be adapted and refined to reflect local and national developments in policy, methods and feedback from those with direct experience of cancer services. The Network looks forward to working with Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees across the Peninsula to shape its approach to patient and public involvement and to develop cancer services. The Network would be pleased to hear the views of HOSCs on:

- the current approach to building involvement with patients, carers and key stakeholders;
- the *User Involvement Principles and Strategic Framework*, and;
- the future development of patient and public involvement across the Peninsula

Nikki Thomas
Nurse Director
Peninsula Cancer Network