

## NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update March 2022

### 1 New cancer alliance website

We are working on a new, improved website for the cancer alliance to make it easier and quicker for both local residents and health and care professionals to access vital cancer information.

Work on the site structure, design and navigation is at a very early stage and we are looking at launching the new site in July. If you would like to get involved in this project, or have any ideas for our new site, please contact [p.thomas6@nhs.net](mailto:p.thomas6@nhs.net)

### 2 Targeted Lung Health Check

Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) – a free MOT of the lungs for those most at risk of developing lung cancer – will be piloted in a couple of areas of north east London starting in the summer of this year. The initial areas will be Barking and Dagenham and Tower Hamlets, based on data showing the areas with the highest smoking rates in north east London. Invites will be sent to people aged 55-74 who are, or who have been, smokers.

We are outsourcing the process to an external provider, who will supply a mobile CT scanner. Through this approach, we are aiming to minimise the impact on existing resources.

The exact locations for the scanners are to be confirmed. We want to speak to local people to get their views on this, as well as on ways we can raise awareness of the project and encourage people to come forward for this free health check.

We will also be engaging with PCNs and local practices over the coming weeks.

The TLHC programme is part of the NHS Long Term Plan ambition that by 2028, 75% of all cancers are diagnosed at an early stage, with 55,000 more people living 5 years or more after their diagnosis, and to reduce inequalities in cancer outcomes.

The NHS Long Term plan commits to rolling out Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) in England, starting with projects in parts of the country with the highest rates of mortality from lung cancer

If you have any questions about the TLHC programme, please email [louis.lot-thomas1@nhs.net](mailto:louis.lot-thomas1@nhs.net)

### **3 PCN DES - Early Cancer Diagnosis service requirements 2022/23**

NHS England and NHS Improvement have written to PCNs to outline General Practice contract arrangements in 2022/23. This includes refreshed Early Cancer Diagnosis service requirements as part of the PCN DES. The requirements are summarised below. A PCN will be required to:

1. Review referral practice for suspected and recurrent cancers, and work with their community of practices to identify and implement specific actions to improve referral practice, particularly among people from disadvantaged areas where early diagnosis rates are lower.
2. Work with local system partners – including the NHS England and NHS Improvement Regional Public Health Commissioning team and Cancer Alliance – to agree the PCN's contribution to local efforts to improve uptake in cervical and bowel NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and follow-up on non-responders to invitations. This must build on any existing actions across the PCN's Core Network Practices and include at least one specific action to engage a group with low participation locally.
3. Work with its Core Network Practices to adopt and embed: i. the requesting of FIT tests where appropriate for patients being referred for suspected colorectal cancer; and ii. where available and appropriate, the use of teledermatology to support skin cancer referrals (teledermatology is not mandatory for all referrals).
4. Focusing on prostate cancer, and informed by data provided by the local Cancer Alliance, develop and implement a plan to increase the proactive and opportunistic assessment of patients for a potential cancer diagnosis in population cohorts where referral rates have not recovered to their pre-pandemic baseline.
5. Review use of their non-specific symptoms' pathways, identifying opportunities and taking appropriate actions to increase referral activity.

### **4 Bowel screening guide for GPs**

As a reminder, you can download a new guide [here](#) to help you increase the uptake of bowel screening. This guide is intended to provide local and practical information for practice and PCN staff to support them with bowel cancer screening uptake.

### **5 Bowel screening awareness**

We have started delivering interventions at local mosques to help increase the uptake of bowel screening, working with the British Islamic Medical Association. This work is continuing over the coming weeks, and we will keep you updated on the impact this has made. If you are interested in hearing more about this project or want to get involved, please email [jake.chambers@nhs.net](mailto:jake.chambers@nhs.net)

We are also working with Leena Khagram, Health Improvement Specialist - NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, to support a series of activities for bowel cancer awareness month in April. Leena covers Newham, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, and City & Hackney.

The activity includes advertising, social media campaigns and engaging with local communities where uptake is low. If you would like to know more, please email [leena.khagram@nhs.net](mailto:leena.khagram@nhs.net)

## 6 Muslim Sisterhood: cervical screening awareness campaign

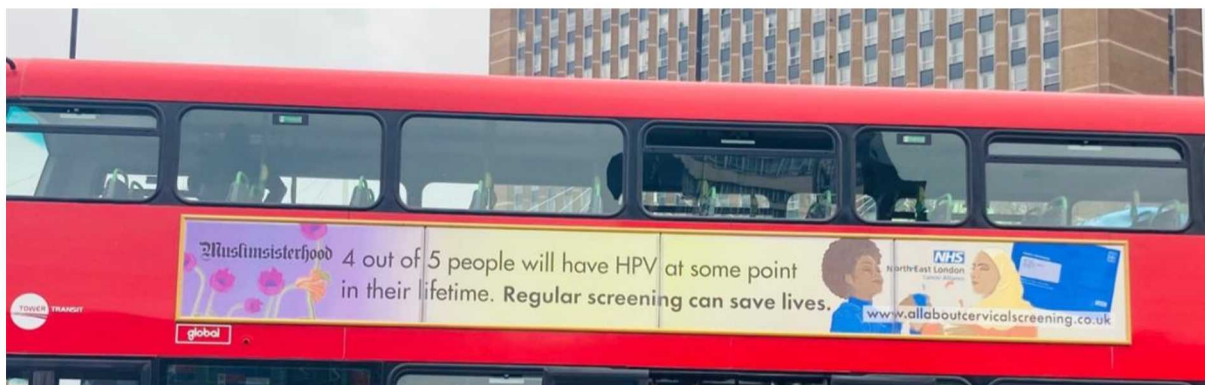
The Muslim Sisterhood cervical screening awareness campaign has now been launched online:

[https://www.instagram.com/tv/CbYQn7SFAtX/?utm\\_medium=copy\\_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CbYQn7SFAtX/?utm_medium=copy_link)

The campaign encourages young Muslim women to attend cervical screening when invited.

The website [www.allaboutcervicalscreening.co.uk](http://www.allaboutcervicalscreening.co.uk) contains the animated video developed by the Muslim Sisterhood. You are also able to access research conducted into the barriers Muslim women face in regards to attending cervical screening. This report was instrumental in developing the materials for this project.

From Monday 28 March the campaign can also be seen on buses and billboards across north east London starting in Bethnal Green and Whitechapel.



## 7 Cervical Screening London: turnaround times and reporting delays

The introduction of HPV technology and highly automated platforms has enabled large volumes of samples to be tested and HPV negative results reported within 3-5 days of receipt in the laboratory.

- CSL has received and reported close to 712,000 cervical samples in 2021 with 89% being reported within 14 days.

- 85% of samples are HPV negative and are reported within 3-5 days of receipt in the laboratory
- 15% samples are HPV positive sample and require a reflex cytology test.

CSL has a three-week delay in reporting abnormal cases.

The average turnaround for England is 70.8% and for London it is 83.2%. All provider laboratories in England are experiencing similar reporting delays due to increasing activity.

CSL continues to work closely with the Group Medical Director and Laboratory Director to create additional sustainable reporting capacity to manage the backlog during this busy period.

Please email [csl.queries@nhs.net](mailto:csl.queries@nhs.net) if you have any queries in relation to this matter.

## **8 Equitable care in early detection and diagnosis of cancer**

Join a free webinar developed to support primary care staff in confidently dealing with the needs of LGBT+ patients and facilitating their access to cancer pathways.

Training is provided by Live Through This, the UK's only LGBTIQ+ cancer charity. This session is online and interactive.

Attending the training will support practices in meeting the Early Diagnosis components within the QOF QI and PCN DES Specification. All attendees will be given a downloadable attendance certificate which can be used for continued professional development.

There are 3 sessions to choose from:

- Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 6.30pm
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 6.30pm
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 1pm

Free places can be booked here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/equitable-care-in-early-detection-and-diagnosis-of-cancer-online-event-tickets-295364000677>

## 9 Jo's Trust cervical health training

Jo's Trust is providing free training for non-clinical administrators, receptionists and other primary care staff who are often patient facing or tasked with speaking to patients (e.g., social prescribers).

This training will support the PCN DES, please encourage staff to attend. More information, including details on dates and how to book, is available [here](#).

## 10 National 'Help us help you' campaign

A new national Help Us Help You campaign has been running in March for four weeks, encouraging people to speak to their GP with signs and symptoms of cancer. It includes TV advertising, social media, and other forms of paid advertising, and we are promoting this at a local level too. An example is here:

<https://twitter.com/NHSEngland/status/1503333884972384259>

## 11 Quality of Life survey

The Quality of Life survey was launched in September 2020. Phase one was rolled out to all patients diagnosed with breast, prostate, or colorectal cancer in England and from October 2021, all cancer patients are being invited to complete the survey. Patients receive the survey around 18-months after their diagnosis.

**Response rates in London are still low. Please can GPs encourage patients to complete the survey if they are approaching 18 months post-diagnosis.**

The [first results](#) of the survey show that cancer patients reported lower quality of life than non-cancer patients in key areas, such as mental health. We are looking at how we can close this gap.

The results demonstrate some variation between Cancer Alliances and different cancer types and can enable local systems to act on the data as appropriate.

## 12 Under 16 cancer patient experience survey

The Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey will inform how the NHS delivers cancer services with the aim to radically improve the outcomes for children and young people affected by cancer.

The NHS really wants to hear from children and young people, and their families, about their experiences so that we can continue to improve the care and services the NHS delivers.

If a patient receives an invitation in the post, please ask them to complete the survey. For more information visit [www.under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk](http://www.under16cancerexperiencesurvey.co.uk).

## 13 For more information

Web: <https://www.eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk/aboutus/north-east-london-cancer-alliance.htm>

Twitter: @CancerNel

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

For any communications queries, please email [p.thomas6@nhs.net](mailto:p.thomas6@nhs.net)