

## **NEL Cancer Alliance Primary Care Update** **March / April 2025**

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### **1 Important update on cancer alliance GP leads**

Our GP contracts via NEL ICB ended on the 31 March. Going forwards, the cancer alliance will have two GP leads as part of the team. Sheraz Younas is the project lead for FDS and the primary care lead for Diagnosis and Treatment, and Jyoti Sood is the primary care lead for Early Diagnosis, as well as leading on the NEL Cancer Academy. We will continue to work closely with place-based leads, as well as our clinical leads across the system.

### **2 Barts Health NHS Trust for Non-Specific Symptom (NSS) referrals**

Following the Barts Health update in November, they would like to share the current waiting time of 1 week for NSS referrals into their RDC clinic (formerly MRADC):  
<https://primarycare.northeastlondon.icb.nhs.uk/news/barts-health-nhs-trust-for-non-specific-symptom-nss-referrals/>

### 3 Targeted Lung Health Check Programme name change

The Targeted Lung Health Check Programme changed its name to **Lung Cancer Screening** from 1 April 2025.

While the name and logo are different, nothing else has changed. The Lung Cancer Screening programme's aims are still to help diagnose lung cancer and other cardiovascular and respiratory diseases earlier, when treatment may be simpler and more successful.

We have updated our webpage: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/lung-cancer-screening>

Our latest figures show a very positive lung cancer screening attendance rate of 61%, which is currently above the national average and also the highest against other London ICBs. Since going live, we have diagnosed over 100 lung cancers, with 84 (76%) in stages 1 or 2.

**All GPs in Havering and Newham who have not yet signed up to this, please do so now.** Please email [nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.lungcheck@nhs.net) for more information.

### 4 Breast screening for women with a Severe Mental Illness (ONEL only)

All BHR PCNs are now launched!! Thank you to all PCNs and practices for their efforts and participation.

Since launching in October 2024, there has been a 3% reduction in unscreened SMI patients across BHR in 5 months (In April 2024, when this project was initially due to launch, it had taken 1 year to achieve this same shift!). Please continue to encourage practices to undertake their LIS activities to increase patient engagement and enable payment.

LIS activity will continue to be monitored across PCNs and practices on a monthly basis until September 2024. Please keep an eye on updates in the next PCN newsletter and via email.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE:** It has been identified that patients that are newly eligible for breast screening (i.e have just turned 50) will **not** be eligible for a screening appointment by the breast screening service until they have received their national screening letter.

These patients will be highlighted to practices by InHealth when they send their list for sense-checking, and they can continue to have the endorsement letter sent to them and the phone call assessment made (but should not have the outcome sent to InHealth).

This has been proven to increase the likelihood of attendance and patients should be informed that they will receive their letter in the next 2 years. Updated service specifications will be circulated to reflect this.

**Please ensure practices receive and consult the updated service spec as this provides all the guidance required to carry out the project.** Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

The next survey is now live - all PCNs and practices are invited to submit their feedback via <https://forms.office.com/e/xPnV2qCsfs> This will also be sent to all PCN leads to share with practices to complete until 31 May 2025. All feedback is welcome and will help us to evaluate the project and scope any future work.

For any queries, please contact Nikki at [Nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:Nikki.poland@nhs.net)

## 5 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller engagement project

The GRT engagement project has now commenced! In partnership with Friends, Families and Travellers and Roma Support Group, recruitment and training is underway for 15 community health champions to help their local communities to engage with health services.

A free webinar for all primary care, NEL ICB, and Public Health teams to meet the champions online is taking place from 1pm to 3pm on 14 May. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/4lkkMID>

There will also be cultural awareness training webinars for Social Prescribers and GP receptionists in north east London from Summer 2025.

All resources and events will be made available via NEL Training Hub, so keep an eye out for updates. For any queries, please contact Nikki, the project manager at [Nikki.poland@nhs.net](mailto:Nikki.poland@nhs.net)

## 6 NEL Cancer Academy update

The recent Cancer Update Courses were well attended by GPs across north east London. Keep an eye out for future training and resources on the NEL Cancer Academy website: <http://nelcanceracademy.co.uk/>

The latest webinar recordings are available here:

Bowel Cancer Webinar: <https://youtu.be/3z5-xTKFJ50>

Lung Cancer Webinar: <https://youtu.be/6PJHAJNQ17M>

## **7 Cancer support for unpaid carers**

North East London Cancer Alliance has launched a campaign to help unpaid carers get access to the right health and wellbeing services - especially when it comes to reducing their risk of cancer. Watch our video for healthcare professionals:

<https://youtu.be/Xj22hflQiDQ>

Read a news article about the campaign:

<https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/news/supporting-unpaid-carers-look-after-their-own-health>

## **8 Teledermatology at the Homerton and City and Hackney**

We have introduced a digital platform called Isla to the skin cancer referral pathway for Homerton and City and Hackney to help ensure that patients with suspected skin cancer receive timely care while reducing routine referral wait times. It uses visual data image capture for routine and urgent suspected referrals to be processed more efficiently.

11 GPs in City and Hackney are taking part in a pilot and have gone live for both routine referrals and for urgent suspected referrals. We will update you on the results of the pilot in due course.

## **9 Skin analytics diagnostics service in Barking and Dagenham**

As well as the project outlined above, an exciting new pilot has gone live in Barking & Dagenham. A new AI-assisted skin lesion diagnostic service is being piloted in Barking and Dagenham, in partnership with Together First CIC, the North East London Cancer Alliance, and Skin Analytics.

This innovative service aims to improve patient care and reduce skin cancer wait times by decreasing the number of benign referrals to the urgent suspected skin cancer pathway. The service is available across all 32 GP practices in Barking & Dagenham.

## **10 Life After Cancer**

Life after Cancer provides free, fully funded services to support patients in north east London navigating life after cancer, with the goal of reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing.

Life after Cancer brings people together who have finished cancer treatment to form support groups, with an aim to increase their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing. The support they receive reduces the risk of serious mental distress and helps them to build a positive life after their cancer experience. The service is free for all cancer patients in north east London. More information is available here:

<https://www.life-aftercancer.co.uk/>

## 11 Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey

The Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey informs how the NHS delivers cancer services with the aim to 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.

Surveys will be sent out this year in April, May and June. **If you are asked about the survey by a patient or their family, please encourage them to complete it.**

For more information visit <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/under-16-cancer-patient-experience-survey>

## 12 Podcasts

Our latest podcasts focus on cancer awareness for young people, including checking yourself for signs and symptoms.

All episodes can be accessed here: <https://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk/taking-control-cancer>

## 13 For more information

Web: [www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk](http://www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk)  
Twitter: @CancerNel  
Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance  
Instagram: @CancerNEL  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-london-cancer-alliance/>  
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