

PCN

Social Prescriber Link Workers (topic specific - cancer)

Related to areas of the PCN specification: Early Cancer Diagnosis

PURPOSE

- To work with the network in supporting them with the NHS England Early Cancer Diagnosis DES
- Support the practices in the PCN to improve local uptake of National Cancer Screening Programmes
- Support the practices in the PCN in conducting peer to peer learning events that look at data and trends in diagnosis across the PCN, including cases where patients presented repeatedly before referral and late diagnoses
- Support the practices in the PCN to engage with local system partners, including Patient Participation Groups, secondary care, the Northern Cancer Alliance and Public Health Commissioning teams
- Liaise with other clinical and non-clinical professionals within the team and other partners involved in patient care locally
- Work with patients to help them understand why cancer screening is key for early diagnosis
- Support patients whilst awaiting diagnostic tests for possible cancer
- Support patients after being diagnosed and help them to understand their diagnosis

OUTCOMES

New role: key areas of work to date

- Telephoning non-responders to bowel screening: 1 patient has been positively identified and referred for colonoscopy after prompting to do the test
- Checking completion of cancer care reviews
- Following up 2ww referrals to ensure appointments received, attended and outcome is followed up appropriately where required

BENEFITS

- Increased screening uptake particularly for bowel and cervical screening
- Additional knowledge in PCN practices around current cancer screening programmes, patient symptom awareness and lifestyle risks
- Holistically brings together all of a person's identified care and support needs, and explores options to meet these needs
- Provides coordination and navigation for people and their carers across health and care services, working closely with social prescribing link workers, health and wellbeing coaches, and other professionals

TRAINING OFFER

CRUK offer training in the core components that support risk reduction and earlier diagnosis including:

- The importance of early cancer diagnosis
- Importance of data, how to access data and how to utilise it to support the initiatives/activities
- NHS cancer screening programmes, hints and tips to increase participation
- Signs and symptoms – e.g. Red flag symptoms, promoting cancer campaigns
- Prevention and risk reduction (e.g. smoking)
- Improved safety netting of patients and more efficient management of DNAs

NEXT STEPS

- Training sessions from CRUK Facilitator
- Ongoing support with questions, materials and campaigns