



Northern Cancer Alliance plan on a page 2023/24

Our long-term ambitions are to; reduce variation of treatment, improve cancer outcomes, maintain quality of life by improving patient experience, and reduce inequalities. We do this by working as system leaders in a multi-agency collaborative of providers, commissioners and third sector organisations, working together and in partnership with the public, across the North East & North Cumbria.

Our Work Programmes

Early Diagnosis
Reducing barriers to early patient presentation by increasing cancer symptom knowledge and body awareness. We will do this with a particular focus on the most deprived 20%.

- Tailor messages for different audiences by understanding which are the most effective messages for which audiences, who are the best people to deliver these messages, and what are the most effective channels.
- Work with primary care networks (PCNs) to improve referrals to hospitals and increase screening rates.
- Expand the current Targeted Lung Health Checks programme to cover all our population.
- Use FIT in community and hospital care to diagnose bowel cancers sooner and reduce the need for some colonoscopies.
- Use new innovations in practice to diagnose cancers particularly in endoscopy in 23/24. But also implementing some new local innovations.
- Increase the use of genetic testing to find people at risk of cancer.
- Use evidence based targeted case finding to invite people for scans or tests where they might diagnose cancer earlier

Faster Diagnosis/Operational Improvement
Working across the system to improve cancer waiting times. If we are to achieve our ambitions, we will need to be ready to bring more people into the system.

- Faster Diagnosis**
By the start of 24/25 everyone across our geography will have access to a Non-Specific Symptoms Pathway. This will make it easier for our GPs to refer people who have worrying symptoms
- Have nationally agreed best practice timed pathways embedded in all 8 Trusts for 4 cancer pathways in 23/24. This will ensure that all our Trusts have the capacity in place to meet the increases in demand and in achieving challenging timescales.
- Operational improvement**
Meet faster diagnosis standard by March 2024. We will do this by working with all Trusts on pathway re-design and the sharing of good examples of work.
- See increases in achieving the 31 day and 62-day cancer waiting times over 23/24 by working with all partners to ensure we embed good practice and new innovations.
- Pilot a new innovative digital tracking system in 3 Trusts and use robotic workers to support admin processes in all 8 Trusts in 23/24

Treatments & Care
Understanding and addressing unwarranted treatment variation by working with all partners to implement improvement. Improve personalised cancer care and experience

- Treatment Variation**
Bring groups of people together who have an expertise or interest in particular cancers to agree and implement best practice and to innovate.
- Use data from Get It Right First Time (GIRFT) and other national audits to assist in targeting developments and ensure consistency of experience
- Personalised care**
In 23/24 support the delivery of our psychosocial service development plan by working with each locality to fully understand the local need.
- Ensure that Personalised care initiatives are built into all cancer pathways and particularly Stratified Follow Up (PSFU) pathways to be operational and sustainable for 4 main cancer groups in 23/24.
- Improved patient outcomes by understanding better pre/rehabilitation universal offers and what specific initiatives work for cancer by piloting work in a number of hospitals and communities.

Crosscutting
Ensure all workstreams plans have been developed with public involvement and address improving experiences of care, addressing health inequalities and ensuring we have the workforce needed.

- Engagement and Involvement**
Maintain and further develop a people and community engagement structure to enable co-production throughout work programmes.
- Continue to work with our public involvement forums and our wider membership to ensure the public voice is embedded in our workplan and in all partner work.
- Health Inequalities**
Work with colleagues across the system to ensure that cancer system development funding is used to address inequalities in access to cancer pathways and inequalities in outcomes from cancer in both geographies and communities across the NENC. We will ensure that health, and healthcare, inequalities are addressed in all NCA workplans
- Workforce**
Working together to develop and grow the cancer workforce, embracing new ways of delivering care. For 23/24 this includes delivery of leadership training, working with Macmillan on a cancer nurse development programme, supporting the implementation of cancer clinical educators and developing new roles

**Increase the proportion of cancers diagnosed at early stage (1 and 2) to 75% by 2030.
Improve one - and five-year cancer survival rates year on year.**