Join with us to improve cancer care across Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington.

How we want to work with local people and professionals to transform cancer care in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington.
What is this document about?

We have excellent specialist cancer care across Cheshire and Merseyside. Our local non-surgical specialist centre, The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, ranks as one of the best in the country.

This means that currently local people in the Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington areas (as shown in the map to the right as the Eastern Sector) are able to access these specialist services.

We, your local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), have looked at the future of these services and are working with clinical experts to make sure they remain the best possible. We want to work with them and you to make sure we continue to improve the way we provide specialist cancer care services.

This document sets out what will need to change in the future to make that happen. We want to make sure local people continue to benefit from high quality cancer care services. The following pages will explain what that will mean and how you can get involved.
What needs to change and why?

How are specialist cancer services provided now?
The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre is a specialist hospital that provides radiotherapy, chemotherapy and support services for the treatment of cancer. Its main base is in Wirral, with a satellite radiotherapy treatment centre in Aintree. Outpatient services and chemotherapy care are also provided in local hospitals across Cheshire, Merseyside and the Isle of Man.

From July 2017, it also began to provide regional specialist services for patients with blood cancers and treatments for bone marrow transplants.

How are other non-surgical and outpatient cancer services provided?
Cancer consultants deliver clinics for outpatient cancer care from fourteen hospital sites across Cheshire and Merseyside. In the Eastern Sector area (that covers Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington) the first outpatient appointments are provided at one of four hospital sites. These sites are: Halton, St Helens, Warrington and Whiston Hospitals.

Quite often the specialist consultants providing care at any of these sites are working alone.

This can mean that appointments can be delayed when a consultant is on holiday or when lots of patients are waiting for an appointment with the same consultant.

Providing cancer services in this way can mean that patients sometimes wait too long for treatment and support service appointments.

What is the demand for cancer care?
The number of people diagnosed with cancer is rising, which means that every year services need to respond to growing demand. The good news is that cancer survival rates have doubled in the last 40 years, with around half of patients now surviving the disease for more than ten years. This means that many more people are being supported to live well with cancer. So it is even more important that cancer care is provided in the best way and as quickly as possible.

What are the challenges now?

Access to clinical trials and services –
The range of support services that patients can access can vary depending on where they live and where they go for their first appointment. Access to clinical trials can also be different, meaning that some patients can access new treatments not available to others.

Appointment waiting times – Making sure that people have access to the right expertise, as quickly as possible, now and in the future, is a real challenge. Being able to recruit the number of specialist consultants needed to meet demand across multiple hospital sites is increasingly difficult.

Consultants need a team approach with other staff such as specialist nurses, pharmacists and radiographers. Working alone as they do now is not sustainable.

Emergency care – Currently if cancer patients become unwell (out of hospital) they are generally directed to A&E, which is not always the best place for people receiving cancer treatment because they may not be seen by a specialist clinical team they are familiar with.

Access to new therapies – New and more complex therapies need to be provided in a specialist cancer centre which currently means travelling to Clatterbridge Cancer Centre - Wirral.

These challenges and the increased demand for cancer care mean that we need to change the way we deliver some services.
How are we proposing to change services and what could that mean?

Benefitting from a new state of the art cancer centre
Our proposals intend to get the best use of the new state of the art cancer centre currently being built in Liverpool that will open in 2020. It is located next to the new Royal Liverpool Hospital, giving on-site access to intensive care, medical and surgical expertise in the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

This site will become the new base of The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and where all of its inpatient beds (staying overnight) will be located.

What will happen to other non-surgical cancer services?
Inpatient care will be provided from the new site in Liverpool. However it is proposed that the majority of outpatient care and other support services will be delivered in a local Hub. The proposal is that there will be four Hubs across Cheshire and Merseyside. These are split into North, South, Central and Eastern sectors. For people living in Halton, Knowsley, St Helens and Warrington it would mean an Eastern Sector Cancer Hub. It is proposed that the Hub, working with other local hospitals, would offer improved local access to a range of specialist cancer services without travelling to the main Cancer Centre.

During a first outpatient appointment this Hub could provide assessment by a multi-disciplinary team including consultants, other doctors, nurses and therapists. Patients could also be given tailored dietary advice, cancer information and advice about benefits.

The majority of chemotherapy treatments and follow up appointments for common cancers would continue to be delivered in local hospitals across the region or at home where possible. Patients with rare cancers will continue to be treated at the main cancer centre as this is the safest place to provide that care.

What about urgent care?
The new Hub could also provide some urgent care specifically for cancer patients who are receiving treatment and become unwell. This could mean that they may not need to go to A&E.

What could be the benefits of the proposed Hub?
Our evidence shows that having access to a Hub means people could benefit from:

- Waiting no longer than 7 days for first appointment following referral
- Treatment will begin within 24 days of the referral
- More patients will have improved access to clinical trials
- Patients could get consistent access to support services (for example cancer information, dietary advice and benefits advice) during their treatment.

Where could the Eastern Sector Cancer Hub be located?
The proposal is in the early stages and we are starting to gather feedback to shape the way forward. The location of the Hub is still to be determined as part of this process, but it is likely to be at a site belonging to either St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust or Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

What stage is the proposal at now?
The model of care is being drawn together to make sure the Hub delivers what is needed for its patients in the best way possible. We want to talk to local people, current patients and stakeholders about what it could mean to them.

This process will start in September 2018 and the feedback will be presented to local decision makers in the late Autumn. It will then be determined what options will be taken to formal public consultation that will last until the Spring 2019. After that time, a decision can be made about where the Hub will be located and what services it will provide.

Turn over the page to see how you can get involved.
How to get involved

We will be writing out to community groups, charities, professional bodies and patient groups to ask them to join a Stakeholder Panel. The Panel will meet to discuss the case for change, how the model for the new Hub should be evaluated, what it could provide and where. This approach will make sure that a range of knowledge, experience and feedback has been incorporated into developing the options for consultation.

In addition, we will be approaching patient groups to speak to them in small workshops to discuss their experiences and ensure that is also taken into account.

Finally there will be a feedback form available on the website links to the right, which can also be requested in hard copy by calling the number to the right.

If you would like this document in Easy Read, LARGE PRINT or other languages, please use the contact details to the right.

Halton
www.haltonccg.nhs.uk

Knowsley
www.knowsleyccg.nhs.uk

St Helens
www.sthelensccg.nhs.uk

Warrington
www.warringtonccg.nhs.uk

cancercare@participate.uk.com
0151 515 0003