

Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Partnership

Hospitals, GPs, commissioners and other partners have been meeting and working together over the past year as Coventry and Warwickshire Health and Care Partnership's Cancer Board to help improve cancer care and treatment for local people.

The Cancer Board is chaired by Lydia Fresco, Senior Responsible Officer for the cancer workstream and Consultant Oncologist at UHCW NHS Trust. It includes representatives from all three acute hospital trusts, primary care, commissioners and public health, as well as the West Midlands Cancer Alliance. Its purpose is to drive the delivery of the National Cancer Strategy and the NHS Long Term Plan whilst improving outcomes for people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

Coventry and Warwickshire's Cancer Board priorities include:



Prevention and earlier diagnosis



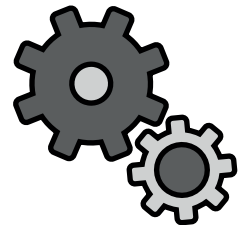
★★★★★
Improved patient experience



Living with and beyond cancer



Investing to deliver high quality cancer care



Commissioning and accountability arrangements

A lot has happened over the last year, and the work of the Cancer Board is continuing to grow and develop. In future you can expect to hear about cancer pathway improvements, faster diagnosis and better care and support for people living with and beyond cancer.

Here are a few of the highlights of our work so far...

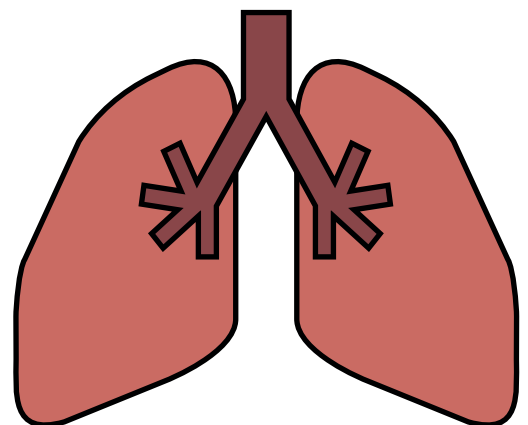
New lung cancer screening pilot

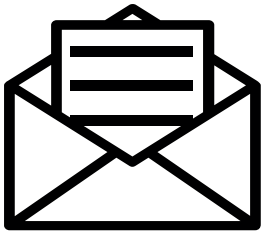
Following a £500,000 funding allocation from the West Midlands Cancer Alliance, we will be starting a targeted lung cancer screening pilot in Coventry later this year.

The pilot will initially work with three GP practices and will use a set criteria to screen local people deemed most at risk from lung cancer. Eligible patients will then receive a low dose CT scan.

Currently there is no national lung cancer screening programme in England, however there has been several successful pilots in other parts of the country.

It is hoped the pilot will increase the number of people who stop smoking and that more patients with lung cancer, or other respiratory diseases are diagnosed earlier, and that they can be treated on an elective pathway rather than an emergency one.





Making referrals easier

Coventry and Warwickshire wide two week wait referral forms for suspected cancers will be launched soon. The new forms will reduce errors and delays, and will help standardise referral procedures across all three hospitals.

Preventing bowel cancer

In June, we introduced Faecal Immunochemical Testing, or FIT, as part of the national bowel cancer screening programme.

The new test is more accurate meaning it can detect smaller signs of blood hidden within the poo sample which can be an early sign of bowel cancer. Only one sample is required compared to the old testing method's three samples from three different days, making it simpler and quicker for patients. Pilots of the new test from around the country have shown an increase in people taking part meaning more people with bowel cancer will be diagnosed earlier – saving lives.

Men and women in England aged 60 to 74 will continue to be automatically sent a bowel cancer screening kit every 2 years. The new test is a significant deliverable as part of the NHS Long Term Plan.

The new test is also being introduced for other patients with symptoms suggestive of possible bowel cancer. So far there have been over 500 tests requested with a 19.2% positivity rate, who are then meeting the criteria for two week wait lower GI referral. This is very positive news reflecting appropriate use of the test by local GPs and early identification of over 100 patients with a potentially serious condition.



Cervical screening success

Recent data has shown that there has been an increase in people attending cervical cancer screening in Coventry and Warwickshire over recent months.

Earlier this year, partner organisations teamed up to on a campaign to raise awareness, with a key emphasis on catching any signs of the disease early.

The campaign involved engaging with local community groups, posts of social media and a special health and wellbeing event with Wasps netball team in April.



Primary care education event

The Primary Care Cancer Education Network has secured the date for the next Coventry and Warwickshire-wide protected learning time (PLT) event.

The event will take place on Wednesday, November 27, at the National Agricultural and Exhibition Centre in Stoneleigh. More information on event and workshops will be shared over the coming months.

