

# Patient Network Meeting Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Carlisle Business Centre, 1.00 pm-3.00pm**

Marilyn Forester welcomed the group and introduced the speakers

Professor Sean Duffy Clinical Lead, West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance and James Parkinson, Senior Commissioning Officer – Planned Care and Cancer (CCG) did presentations on the uptake of Cancer Screening in Bradford. They talked about what are the main challenges in Bradford and District with regards to lower cancer screening uptake and what they are doing to overcome this. They also talked about how they are trying to improve their engagement with public.

Rachel Ball, Cancer Research UK manager for Yorkshire and Humber also gave an overview of her team's work and some of the challenges in Bradford.

The speakers thanked the group for letting them present.

## **Questions and answers**

Question) There are three national screening cancer programmes .Would you consider having one screening for all cancer rather than going through different ones?

- Answer) The accuracy and the ability of screening full population require a number of methods in order to be successful. The current evidence that underpins that need to pay for all of that is strong when you know the disease and how it progresses and how you interact at the start of it. The current evidence is for Bowel Cancer, cervical cancer and breast cancer. Targeting risk factor patients is way forward. The screening programme is targeted at certain age criteria that have no symptoms. It's a big challenge that we are analysing. The new technology will help us to pick up early warning signs of risk sides.

Question) Who makes the decision on age group for cancer screening?

- Answer) The national screening team decides which age to screen but we think this is going to change in the next few years. The prime minister talked about lowering the age to 50 years old. We are starting a new systematic pathway this month to do a fit test in our area for low risk people. We have been talking with the local GPs and they will offer you a test which wasn't available before.

Question) Isn't it fair to say that if you are outside those age ranges you can request to be added up for a call up for testing or if you are beyond the age of 74 for Bowel screening?

- Answer) Yes you can for both Bowel and breast screening. Rachel Ball can provide the contact details. The onus is on patients. Patient can be added in. if patients are

concerned about anything they should go to their doctor who will decide what test is needed.

Question) The cancer diagnostic rate in Bradford are the worst throughout the West Yorkshire and Harrogate. If the issues are with staffing or equipment, are you working collaborative with CCGs and NHS Trusts?

- Answer) We do work collaboratively. We have developed a new pathway care with dermatology. There was a struggle to start with this but we are getting better with it. We are working closely with CCGs across West Yorkshire and Harrogate and provider trust.

Question) Certain conditions of diabetes can lead to disability. Are there any relationships with acute illness and Diabetes leading the risk of cancer?

- Answer) There is evidence of risk with womb cancer. Diabetes and obesity are also linked with cancer.

Question) There is no national screening test for Prostate cancer. The test that is done is not reliable as it could be. it's difficult to get men to go to their doctors . We encourage people to go for test but sometimes GPs are not receptive when men go to their GPs. What can we do to help GPs to understand the risk of prostate cancer with certain groups?

- Answer) If patient request for test, GPs should provide the test. The reason for not having the prostate screening programme is because the risk and balanced have not clearly been identified at the moment. We encouraged GPs for training around this.

Question) How can Patient Network and PPGs support you in spreading the message even further?

- Answer) There are many level where we would like the message to be spread. We would like to engaged as broadly as possible. We would appreciate support from lay members. There is bowel cancer awareness month coming up maybe if the group can think of engaging even handing leaflets at your practices or encourage patients to make an appointment with their doctor. If any of the practices are struggling to promote, you can get in touch with us.

Question) How many people that have been screened have prognosis that have helped? Have you got any stats on that?

- Answer) If you go through screening programme and you been diagnosed with cancer, you are more likely to curable.

## **Patient Network Meeting Minutes 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

### **Scorex House, 6.00 pm-8.00pm**

Saeed Khan welcomed the group and introduced the speakers.

#### **Questions and answers**

Question) the Bowel cancer test is difficult to do with people with disability. How do you do this?

- Answer) We are looking at a new test which will be easier to do with people with disability and sending off for check-up. The test is much more reliable.

Question) Why there is a top age of 74 years old for bowel screening?

- Answer) For both Bowel and breast cancer you can opt in for 77 years old. We promote this with practices to make sure that patients are aware about this. This is not available for cervical cancer because there is no clinical evidence to demonstrate that it would be useful to invite people to the programme.

Question) Uptakes of Bowel cancer screening in Bradford City are shocking. The uptake in Bradford is 30% against the nation target 60%. Have you thought about putting an event in the community involving Imams and key community members? What are you doing in Bradford?

- Answer) We are linked in with self-care activities. These events have been good opportunities to engage with the local communities. There have been five visits in the last two years from Cancer Research UK road show. We have attended events at practices. We are hoping that the recent Talk Cancer workshops will stimulate people to come forward and could put events in the community. But we are aware that we do need to do more.

Question) Languages are a big problem at Bevan Health Care as majority of the patients using the centre don't speak English so if anybody ask for Bowel cancer treatment they have rely on interprets. Sometimes there is no money to hire interpreters.

- Answer) The individuals can ask for interpreters from Enable 2. The CCG pay for the interpreters so individuals won't have to pay anything.

Question) Who is responsible for passing my data to Enable2. I feel uncomfortable them contacting me. Have you got my permission to pass the data to another organisation? Have you thought about people being worried why interpreters are ringing them?

- (Answer) The interpreters are calling on behalf of practices who are contracted with Enable 2. Its part of your health care which is concerned. GPs are only giving the information to interpreters about the Bowel cancer. No other medical information is shared with Enable2.

Audience- It would be very useful if you could come and present at the community partnerships meetings. People from different sectors including voluntary sectors sit on this forum. it would be very useful to share this with them.

Panel- We do have contact with Community Partnerships and we can share the information with them. We are also part of Health and wellbeing Network which link to all the organisations.

Question) What strategies do you have to overcome the barriers of engaging on Bowel Cancer with individuals and communities. How are you going to challenge that?

- Answer) We talked about having events in Mosques and involving imams to change cultural mind-set. We can provide all the information and guidance in different languages and sensitivity to put across to public. If they still decide not to take up and then its their choice. Cancer Research UK did a media campaign specifically for Bradford. Public health would be usually leading on this but they have had massive funding cuts.

Audience- A similar project was piloted about 8 years ago in Airedale. Community volunteers were recruited to help raise the awareness of Bowel cancer. The champions were given the basic training and tools to raise awareness of Bowel cancer. The champions included a pharmacist, representative from Mosques and Church, community centres, barbers taxi drivers. The project was very successful in engaging with the targeted groups. We could do with a similar project in Bradford. Peer support is essential. The challenge is who is going to lead on this.

Question) psychological support has been withdrawn for cancer patients. My daughter was diagnose with cancer and anxiety has been a huge part of her life. We have a very little support around this. How much is psychological support is available for cancer patients?

- Answer) The personalised care in Bradford is in the recognition that the number of people who should be having holistic needs assessment. We haven't done enough of this. There are cancer support centres that people can link into. Yorkshire Cancer Support in Bradford provides emotional, counselling, therapy and financial support.

Panel- If you as a group want to get more involved and want our support we can come back and do this.

Question) Do Practices know how many of their patients have taken up the offer of test?

- Answer) Yes the practices are aware. They can pull out the information from their clinical system who has taken the offer or not. You can have access to this information too by going on Public Health England data. You can google fingertips data from cancer services and you can search by your practice.

Question) How are you promoting the new test? How can we promote this in the community? We have self-care event coming up in our centre you can bring it and promote it there.

- Answer) Public Health England are charged of delivering the programme. They are not sure when they are going to launch the new test. They have asked us not to promote it yet. Once they have launched then then we can do the promotion.