NHS GRAMPIAN

Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action in Grampian

1. Actions Recommended

Board members are asked to approve the strategy set out in the attached paper – Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action in Grampian which has been prepared by the Grampian Cancer Strategy Group.

2. Strategic Context

It is expected that 40% of the population of Scotland will develop some form of cancer during their lifetime, and that around one in thirteen males and one in nine females will develop some form of cancer before the age of 65.

The Scottish Government’s cancer strategy Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action, published in 2016 outlines the opportunities to tackle cancer through improvements in prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment and after care. The Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2016/17, submitted to the Board in December 2017 focused on cancer prevention, and the need to raise the profile of prevention as a major theme in developing the approach to cancer in Grampian.

3. Key matters relevant to recommendation

Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action in Grampian has been prepared by the Cancer Strategy Group to provide a strategic direction for tackling cancer in Grampian. In doing so some specific examples of current and near future cancer initiatives are included as exemplars of projects which have started recently or will begin imminently in Grampian. The Cancer Strategy Group is also tasked with:

- Whole system change in relation to pathways of care involving many professional groups and organisations by providing leadership support to decision making and planning
- Developing the best approach to the planning and delivery of services
- Coordinating combined improvement approaches to all areas of cancer care to reduce variation, to encourage innovation in how services are provided now and in the future, and to help reduce harm and promote equitable and sustainable improvements in cancer care service provision

The strategy aims to provide the direction and purpose for the Grampian approach by taking account of the following:

- Numbers of cancers diagnosed have risen steadily since 1991 and are set to increase by 20% over the next ten years – there will be an increased demand for cancer services and care
• The need to set the right balance between prevention and diagnosis and treatment in a financially challenging environment. Prevention and early detection are critical parts of our approach

• Modifiable cancer risk factors are common in the Grampian population. Two in three adults report two or more risk factors. There are differences in how common different cancer risk factors are between different groups in our population that could contribute to avoidable differences in cancer occurrence and mortality

• The most common types of cancer in Grampian are cancers of the breast, bowel and lung

• NHS Grampian has a responsibility to ensure that people have access to accurate and trusted information about cancer

• Providing universal services that are directed and responsive to those in greatest need – tackling barriers to access such as stigma, inequalities in access

• Ensuring a person centred approach which identifies and builds on the strengths and abilities of individuals, groups and communities

There are significant challenges in Grampian in relation to compliance with the 62 day and 31 day access for treatment standards. The direction provided by the strategy will stimulate the development of a consolidated plan which takes account of the actions currently underway to improve performance and move towards the strategic direction.

Whilst the strategy has been prepared by the Cancer Strategy Group it has been the subject of wide engagement over the past six months. This engagement has included the staff who deliver the services, the third sector partners engaged in supporting people with cancer, patient groups, and the departments/organisations involved in the planning and organisation of cancer pathways. Cancer was also a major topic for discussion at a Board seminar during 2017 when the need, capacity, access and organisational issues were reviewed with the Board, Cancer Strategy Group members, Area Clinical Forum and senior clinicians and managers. Beating Cancer: Ambition and Action in Grampian reflects the advice and guidance provided at the seminar.

A key feature of cancer planning and delivery in the future will be the further integration of the services across the North of Scotland. The engagement process for the North of Scotland Health and Social Care Delivery Plan has resulted in an agreement that the three cancer centres i.e. in Inverness, Aberdeen and Dundee, will work towards the development of single system of cancer treatment and care to maximise the opportunities improving outcomes and the sustainability of services in the North. An ambitious regional cancer plan is being developed which will be influenced by the Grampian approach.
4. Risk Mitigation

The implementation of a cancer strategy will mitigate Strategic Risk 851 – Delivery strategies are not aligned to meet the future needs of the population.

5. Responsible Executive Director and contact for further information

If you require any further information in advance of the Board meeting please contact:

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