

Appendix 1 – Item 11 (Reports of Representatives)
Cardiff & Vale University Health Board Stakeholders Reference Group

Meeting Tuesday 25th May (via Microsoft Teams)

Two presentations were made one on UHB's Recovery Planning process and one on the Development of Acute Cancer Services in South East Wales.

Recovery Planning

The non-COVID 19 consequences of dealing with the pandemic have included;

- Reduced referrals (fewer referrals from GPs)
- Ageing waiting lists (not a major increase in numbers on the waiting lists but an increase in the length of time on the list)
- Reduced Emergency Unit attendance (people reluctant to attend what might be a long wait in crowded EU re COVID risk)
- Unmet/ rising demand (e.g. increase in mental health issues)

All of these have combined to produce a multi-faceted and highly interactive future workload while still working under the uncertainty of a COVID third wave. For example, in relation to recruitment – there is no use in having enough surgeons if you don't have enough anaesthetists and there is no benefit in having a full complement of theatre staff unless you have enough cleaners.

UHB is engaged in a detailed review and planning process to address the above. Initial examination suggests:

1. A full 'recovery' from the pandemic will likely take at least 5 years and will require sustained and significant additional capacity.
2. Additional capacity alone will not be enough and the NHS will need to fundamentally review the services it provides and the way in which they are provided (for example the introduction of telephone triage).
3. Both additional capacity and pathway redesign will take time and therefore there will be a need to support patients, manage expectations and enhance the services which are alternatives to treatment.

Acute Cancer Services in South East Wales.

Acute oncology needs address the following circumstances:

First presentation of cancer normally first presents in emergency setting where patient was unaware of existing cancer

Complications of treatment for example in patients with known cancer suffering emergency complications of systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) or radiotherapy treatment

Acute complications of disease e.g. Acute spinal cord compression

A concern has arisen as to whether specialist services/staff are routinely available and whether such services would be better provided on a regional basis.

Discussions and planning are being undertaken and a business case developed for the provision of a Regional Acute Oncology Service encompassing Aneurin Bevan UHB (which also serves Powys), Velindre UHB, Cwm Taff Morgannwg UHB and Cardiff & Vale UHB.