

## Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

January 2024

### Improving cancer early diagnosis and survival in BSW

The NHS is working hard to save thousands more lives each year by dramatically improving how cancer is diagnosed and treated and there is some great work going on here at BSW ICB to help improve support for people with cancer.

One of the two national ambitions for cancer is to ensure more of those people who are found to have cancer, are diagnosed and treated while it is at an earlier stage, as this means that treatment is often less complex, more successful and people live longer after treatment and with fewer long-term effects. Across BSW we have been doing a lot of work to help deliver this national ambition, including the following initiatives.

#### Primary Care cancer projects

For several years GPs and staff working in primary care have been supported to design and deliver local bespoke cancer programmes to best meet the needs they know exist within the populations they support. These typically focus on work to improve early diagnosis of cancer by encouraging people to attend when invited for bowel, breast or cervical cancer screening; or to see their GP if they have concerning symptoms that might be a sign of cancer.

Where possible, many of these programmes have a focus on addressing the health inequalities that exist in our communities, which is important as access to care and uptake of screening is lower for certain more disadvantaged groups than other groups. Examples of successful recent projects include

- Cancer roadshows
- Contacting those who have not responded to screening invites
- Language-specific promotional activities, information and leaflets for particular groups targeting Nepali, Polish and Moroccan populations
- Additional cervical screening sessions outside of normal hours and pop-up cervical screening sessions to better meet the needs of some populations
- Creating and distributing easy-read information explaining cancer screening for people with learning disabilities
- Community outreach to people with learning disabilities to explain the reasons for, and benefits of, cancer screening.

## Targeted lung health checks

Across Swindon, parts of Bath and, shortly, Trowbridge and parts of Salisbury, targeted lung health checks (TLHC) are being offered to current and ex-smokers aged 55-74. The aim is to identify and treat people with lung cancer even though they may have no obvious symptoms. People diagnosed with lung cancer at the earliest stage are nearly 20 times more likely to survive for five years than those whose cancer is caught late. Where the lung health check identifies a potential high risk of lung cancer, people are invited to attend a scan to investigate further.

## New resources to support patients, carers, families and health and care professionals with hospital discharge

New leaflets, videos and information resources have been developed to help provide extra support for patients, families and carers during their discharge from hospital and throughout their onward care journey.

The resources, which also provide information and support for health and care professionals looking after patients, support a new programme of work called [Caring Steps Together](#) which has been established to improve the wider understanding around what can sometimes be the confusing process of leaving hospital and accessing follow-up care.

## Offering help to region's military families

The NHS in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire is offering military families in the region dedicated help and support to navigate any issues and queries they may have which relate to local health and care.

Military personnel and their loved ones can now contact the local NHS directly to receive personalised advice and guidance on any matter that is making accessing local services a challenge.

A high number of military families are currently based in the region, particularly in parts of rural Wiltshire, with many having moved from elsewhere in the country.

To ensure these people can continue to access care seamlessly and with the same ease as others living in the region, the local NHS has signed up to OpCommunity.

This national initiative involves creating a single point of local contact, which military families can call upon in times of need, such as when medical records may not have been transferred from a previous provider.

By being part of OpCommunity, we are giving families a direct route into the heart of the local NHS, where they can find answers to all their questions, directions to the right services and help for issues that are creating a barrier to care.

Families can access this new support service in a number of different ways, either by telephone or email, or by filling in the form on the ICB website, which will then generate a callback. Emails should be sent to [bswicb.afspoc@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.afspoc@nhs.net).

## Home First Project

The Home First Services project was set up to explore the current Home First pathway (Pathway 1 services funded by the Better Care Fund) within Wiltshire and to propose potential changes and service developments that could be put in place to improve efficiency and patient flow through this pathway. This is to be done whilst maintaining or improving service outcomes. This is a partnership project, with stakeholders from the ICB, Wiltshire Health & Care and Wiltshire Council among others all involved and working together.

### So far the project has:

- Fully analysed our capacity and demand for the Home First service and considered the needs of our changing population
- Developed and proposed a model of best practices related to hospital discharge, taking into account national and local guidance
- Developed and proposed a new model for discharge
- Completed comprehensive staff engagement aimed at sense checking and developing the proposed model
- Proposed and is now implementing a pathway 1 patient categorisation framework that will allow the teams to better tailor care to the needs of patients
- Recruited (via Wiltshire Council) a Home First Services Manager to oversee Home First Services
- Developed and launched patient and staff communication resources around the discharge process - [Caring Steps Together](#)

### Next Steps are:

- Developing KPI reporting functionality so we can understand our performance
- Further progress towards a model of integrated care and interdisciplinary working
- Establish if there are any other innovations (including technology) that will further support and improve the service we offer to people living in Wiltshire