

Lancashire & South Cumbria Cancer Psychology CRG Terms of Reference

Overview

The Lancashire & South Cumbria cancer Psychology group sits within the Cancer Alliance as part of NHS England, and Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Psychology Reference Group reports to the Cancer Alliance Board through the Alliance Cancer Quality Improvement Lead who acts as chair to this group. Psycho-oncology representatives act as Chair and Vice Chair.

Purpose of the Group

The role of the Psychology Clinical Reference Group is to work towards establishing support and consistency within clinical practice for cancer psychology services and services providing psychosocial support to people living with cancer and those who are important to them in Lancashire and South Cumbria. The group aims to encourage collaboration and sharing of information between all organisations within the Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance. It provides an opportunity for NHS service providers and VCSE service providers to meet regularly with each other with a focus on improving services for people living with and beyond cancer. The forum will establish and develop alliance-wide consistency and quality of psychological and psychosocial care provision across the Lancashire & South Cumbria Cancer Alliance. The group will provide support, advice, and recommendations to the Cancer Alliance Board in regard to operational delivery of the delivery of psychological care across LSC, including collaboration and partnership development.

The role of the Psychology Clinical Reference Group is to ensure co-ordination of the cancer pathway and consistency of clinical practice irrespective of where treatment is provided. Key responsibilities include:

- Identifying and raising awareness of population needs
- Service monitoring including clinical performance and patient outcomes.
- Workforce development
- Increasing research capacity
- Implementation of clinical guidelines
- Development of local pathways and service specifications
- Responding to concerns or inequalities raised through monitoring processes.
- Advising on matters relating to service reconfiguration

The Psychology Reference Group will work collaboratively with partners and the Cancer Alliance to identify and work towards nationally and locally determined priorities, care aims and objectives across the Cancer Alliance and inform the development of the Cancer CRG work plans.

Terms of Reference

- Interpreting national policies and guidelines and preparing strategies for local implementation while also assessing the implications on acute trust and primary care delivery.
- Monitoring performance against national and local standards, strategies and projects and highlighting key areas of significant concern and risk to the Cancer Alliance.
- To produce a cancer service improvement plan for psychological care in conjunction with members of the group and actions to be completed in accordance to agreed specific time frames. The service improvement plan will be agreed by the Cancer Alliance Board and aligned to the 96 recommendations outlined in the Cancer Strategy.
- To support and advise the Cancer Alliance, clinical network groups, Macmillan GPs, CRUK GP Leads and CCGs by coordinating the implementation of agreed strategies or projects, including the development of remedial action plans where required.
- To develop, advise, share, and spread best practice across the network and to collaborate on initiatives designed to enhance patient care.
- To provide peer support to colleagues through the sharing of knowledge, advice and hands-on assistance if required.
- Members to ensure robust communications and hold a responsibility to cascade information to relevant colleagues in their own organisations and ensure that action is taken where required.

Role of the Psychology Reference Group representative

- Actively engaged in ensuring consistent and equal access to excellent psychological and psychosocial care provision across the Alliance

Responsibility of the Psychology Reference Group representative

- Attend the workstream board meeting or nominate a named deputy.
- Steer and influence the development and delivery of the Alliance Personalised care service improvement plan.
- Reflect network strategic objectives in local organisational plans.

Membership

- Psycho-oncology Clinical Leads (Chair and Deputy Chair)
- Cancer Alliance Programme Director
- Lead Nurse from each hospital trust within the clinical network
- Cancer commissioning lead from each of the 4 Cancer Localities
- Representation from Third Sector providers
- Representation from Macmillan Regional Team (Partnership Manager)
- Representation from the ICS personalised care team
- Representation from Primary Care
- Other experts in speciality by invitation

Attendance and Quorate

- 50% of membership is considered quorate.
- At least one representative from each locality
- Chair or Deputy Chair

Meeting frequency

- The workstream board will meet quarterly via Microsoft Teams meetings.

Accountability and reporting

- The Psychology Reference group is accountable and reports into the Cancer Alliance Board. For locality reporting it is recognised that locality-based Psycho-oncology Special Interest Group is operational in all four acute provider trusts within Lancashire & South Cumbria.

Review

- Terms of Reference will be subject to an annual review.