

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

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Macmillan Cancer Support Briefing for the Backbench Business Debate on The Cancer Strategy: One year on December 2016

By the end of this Parliament, around one in every two people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime.ⁱ However, improvements in diagnosing and treating the disease mean that more people are surviving it, or living for longer with it, and consequently we have 2.5 million people living with or beyond cancer in the UK today.

Yet not all of these people are living well with many experiencing the physical, emotional and financial consequences of treatment. Around one in four people living with or beyond cancer face disability or poor health following their treatment and this can remain the case for many years after treatment has ended.ⁱⁱ It is vital they are able to access the best care that is right for them when they need it, and to ensure that the NHS is set up to meet the changing needs of cancer patients. Not only would this increase the quality and experience of survival, it would ensure that resources invested in the disease are done in the most efficient way; this is key with Five Year Forward View projections indicating that expenditure on cancer services will need to grow by about 9% a year, reaching £13 billion by 2020/21.ⁱⁱⁱ

The debate serves as a timely and welcome opportunity to discuss cancer services in the NHS today. The 2015 Cancer Strategy for England is progressing however there are areas where Macmillan would like to see more detail on implementation plans if its ambitious aim to save an additional 30,000 lives a year is to be achieved by 2020. Addressing the significant challenges facing the cancer workforce, for instance, is at the heart of the Strategy, but we are yet to see much progress on this issue. We would be grateful if you could raise any of the points or suggested questions in this briefing during the debate.

For more information, **speaking notes or local statistics**, please contact Victoria Woods, Senior Public Affairs Officer (VWoods@macmillan.org.uk, 020 7840 4843).

1. The 2015 England Cancer Strategy

In July 2015 the Independent Cancer Taskforce published its Cancer Strategy for England: Achieving World-Class Cancer Outcomes. The Strategy's ambition is to save 30,000 more lives by 2020 and radically improve patient experience and quality of life which, if successfully implemented, will meet the changing needs of people with cancer.

NHS England (NHSE) has now published its 'One Year On' report, which details progress against delivery of the recommendations set out in the Strategy.^{iv} Macmillan was pleased to see NHSE set out, for the first time, funding for the Strategy over the next four financial years. Nevertheless, we still need to see how NHSE will ensure that this funding is

channelled into improvement of frontline services and how it will be allocated across the six strategic priority areas of the Strategy.

Furthermore, no up to date estimate exists of the total amount spent on cancer care in the NHS per newly diagnosed patient; the NAO's report on 'Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes in England', published in January 2015, identifies this lack of a figure beyond 2012/13 as a significant data gap when evaluating the cost and efficiency of cancer care.^v

The Government and NHS England must now set out how the funding announced in the 'One Year On' report will be allocated across the six strategic priority areas of the Cancer Strategy.

It is essential to understand the underlying cancer budget if we are to know whether the additional funding for the Cancer Strategy will be sufficient to make its vision a reality.

1.1 A strategic approach to workforce

The traditional cancer workforce model, set up in a single disease framework and focused on treatment and survival, cannot meet current and future demands and deliver the right care and support for the changing needs of people with cancer at all stages of the cancer pathway. We are therefore pleased that the Strategy's plan recognises that its ambition cannot be realised 'without having the right workforce, with the right competencies, in the right numbers in place'.

One of the key recommendations in the Strategy's plan was that Health Education England (HEE) should work with partners to conduct a strategic review of the cancer workforce. Earlier this year, Macmillan worked with Cancer Research UK and around 20 other organisations to develop [a set of eight principles](#) for what the review should cover, including looking at skill mix, new roles, education and how workforce can support coordination of care.^{vi} If the review is to ensure the cancer workforce is fit for the future, it is vital that it is ambitious, and in line with these principles.

However, we have continuing concerns on the progress of this area of work. The National Cancer Advisory Group, in its assessment of progress against the Cancer Strategy recommendations published in September, said that it was 'very disappointed that there hasn't been significant progress in this area', and urged NHSE's Cancer Transformation Board to 'prioritise a focus on the cancer workforce in the coming months'. Macmillan echo these concerns, and believe that much more needs to be done to ensure that there is a clear vision for the future workforce.

We were pleased to see a specific reference to the strategic review of the cancer workforce in the Department of Health's Mandate to HEE, and are calling on the Government to set out more detail on its expectations for this vital piece of work, including detail on how HEE will be engaging with the wider sector.

1.2 Living with and beyond cancer

Too often people aren't given the support they need to cope with the physical and emotional impacts of cancer; at least 625,000 people in the UK are estimated to be facing poor health or disability after treatment for cancer – approximately one in four (25%) of those living with cancer^{vii}. Many patients reflect that this feels like 'falling off the edge of a cliff' – and that they feel abandoned by the system.

These issues can range from pain, depression, fatigue, incontinence and sexual dysfunction and a higher risk of other conditions including heart disease, osteoporosis and secondary cancer.^{viii} Social issues such as isolation are often reported, and for many this can be in addition to financial worries and anxiety that their cancer will return or worsen.

Through well-designed and timely interventions and support, these people can be enabled to prepare for and to potentially mitigate the consequences of treatment and to have a better quality of life.

Meeting the challenge

The Recovery Package

- The Recovery Package model has been designed to take a holistic approach to cancer care, ensuring that people's practical, physical and emotional needs are explored and addressed.
- Macmillan welcomes the commitment made by the Secretary of State for Health that everyone with a cancer diagnosis must have access to the Recovery Package by 2020.^{ix}

Macmillan believes that delivering the recommendations contained in the Cancer Strategy will help to meet the challenge presented by the growing population living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis.^x

These recommendations call for an acceleration in the commissioning and provision of services to support people living with and beyond cancer – and without these interventions there is a risk that this group will instead face poorer outcomes – increasing pressure on health and social care services and the welfare system.

Macmillan welcomes the commitment from NHSE to drive forwards the Cancer Strategy, alongside the commitments made by the Secretary of State for Health that everyone with a cancer diagnosis must have access to the Recovery Package by 2020 and the development of a Quality of Life metric by 2017.

Macmillan continues to monitor the Government's progress in delivering on its commitments to ensure that everyone with cancer has a Recovery Package by 2020 and a quality of life metric is developed to drive transparent improvements for patients.

Suggested questions:

- Can the Minister provide an update on progress being made with the roll-out of the Recovery Package across the country and the development of the quality of life metric?

1.3 Cancer Alliances

The establishment of Cancer Alliances is vital in driving through the improvements laid out in the Strategy. Macmillan was delighted to see this reflected in the Strategy's planned commitment to roll out them out from September this year. We are in agreement with NHSE's Cancer Transformation Board that the form of the Cancer Alliances should follow the function, so we are pleased that this states that they should work together with clinical and non-clinical leaders from across different health and care settings in the local community.

Cancer Alliances have a fundamental role to play in ensuring that the money reaches the areas that need it most so that everyone with a cancer diagnosis has access to a recovery package by 2020, alongside personalised follow-up care that meets their individual needs.

A key aim will be to look at whole pathway data and information in the new Cancer Dashboard and use it to pinpoint areas for improvement locally through pathway redesign and changing clinical behaviours.

Suggested questions

- Can the Minister provide any further information about the progress being made in relation to the implementation of Cancer Alliances?

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Registered charity details Macmillan Cancer Support, registered charity in England and Wales (261017), Scotland (SC039907) and the Isle of Man (604). Also operating in Northern Ireland.

ⁱ Macmillan estimate based on; Maddams J, Utley M, Møller H. Projections of cancer prevalence in the United Kingdom, 2010-2040. *Br J Cancer* 2012; 107: 1195-1202. (Scenario 1 presented here) Forman D, et al. Cancer prevalence in the UK: results from the EUROPREVAL Study. *Annals of Oncology*. 2003. 14: 648–654; Office for National Statistics; Information Services Division (ISD) Scotland; General Registrar Office Scotland; Welsh Cancer Intelligence & Surveillance Unit; Northern Ireland Cancer Registry; Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

ⁱⁱ Macmillan Cancer Support (2013) *Cured – but at what cost? Long-term consequences of cancer and its treatment* Macmillan Cancer Support: London

ⁱⁱⁱ FYFV forecasts were based on a Technical Annex published in December 2013, which included assumptions indicating that budget lines related to cancer are likely to grow by around 9% per annum over the next five years, in the absence of any efficiency savings. Described further in the 2015 Cancer Strategy: Independent Cancer Taskforce (2015), *Achieving world-class cancer outcomes: A strategy for England, 2015-2020*, p. 6. Available at: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/sites/default/files/achieving_world-class_cancer_outcomes_-_a_strategy_for_england_2015-2020.pdf

^{iv} Achieving World Class Cancer Outcomes for England: 2015-2020. One Year On 2015-2016 https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/cancer-one-year-on.pdf?utm_source=Macmillan%20Cancer%20Support&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7786514_Evidence%20Bulletin%20November%202016&dm_i=FY7.4MW42.FK3Y5I.HA0CB.1

^v National Audit Office, 'Progress in improving cancer services and outcomes in England', January 2015. Available at: <https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Progress-improving-cancer-services-and-outcomes-in-England.pdf>

^{vi} Macmillan Cancer Support and CRUK, A shared vision for a strategic review of the cancer workforce July 2016 http://www.macmillan.org.uk/images/A-shared-vision-for-a-strategic-review-of-the-cancer-workforce-June2016_tcm9-290409.pdf

^{vii} Figures quoted from expert consensus collated as part of Macmillan Cancer Support (2013) *Throwing light on the consequences of cancer and its treatment*. Consensus was reached by consulting with a range of UK experts in the field, including members of the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative (NCSI) Board, the NCSI Pelvic Cancers Project Steering Group, the Consequences of Cancer and its Treatment Collaborative (CCaT) and other leading researchers and professional societies. Macmillan Cancer Support, *Throwing light on the consequences of cancer and its treatment*. Available from: http://www.macmillan.org.uk/documents/aboutus/newsroom/consequences_of_treatment_june2013.pdf [Accessed August 30 2016]

^{viii} Macmillan Cancer Support (2013) *Throwing Light on the Consequences of Cancer and its Treatment* Macmillan Cancer Support: London p. 5

^{ix} <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/from-2020-people-with-suspected-cancer-will-be-diagnosed-faster>

^x <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/cancer-strategy.pdf>