

APPENDIX 2

Breast Diagnostic Services Current position

Friday 10th December 21



Background

- In October 2015, the Breast Diagnostic Service at James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) was halted due to workforce pressures
- Emergency action was taken to transfer the service to North Tees Hospital to ensure that patients could still receive this crucial service
- The Breast Diagnostic Service (also known as the Breast Symptomatic Service) is available to patients whose GP identifies them to have suspected breast cancer.
- NHS Standards insist that these patients should be seen within 14 days where possible.
- Patients still retain the option to have any subsequent treatment and follow-up appointments at any of the sites across the Tees Valley.



Work undertaken

- In November 2019, South Tees CCG launched a period of engagement looking at Breast Diagnostic Services and how they work for patients in South Tees - Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland areas.
- A press release and poster promoting the engagement activity was created and cascaded to stakeholders along with a link to the survey which was available for all patients who had accessed the Breast Diagnostic Service at University Hospital of North Tees since 1st January 2019, to complete
- Three public and stakeholder events were held; one in Redcar and two in Middlesbrough
- Two focus groups were arranged with two breast cancer support groups - Redcar Breast Cancer Support Group and Positively Pink Breast Cancer Support Group.
- A survey was developed and distributed
- In total 865 individuals contributed to the engagement



Themes from engagement

The Covid-19 Pandemic has halted some of the progress following the patient engagement exercise. Both North and South Tees Trusts have continued to collaborate to maintain the service for patients through very difficult times. Some themes identified from the engagement include;

- The Breast Diagnostic Service was evaluated well by survey respondents with 95% rating the service either good or very good
- Positive comments were made about the high standard of care received, the professionalism of staff, the excellent communication as well as the efficiency of the service.
- A number of respondents expressed their frustration with the closure of the James Cook service
- Linked to the above it was noted that some patients were unaware of the 'one-stop-shop' approach at North Tees, better communication of this would have supported reducing patient frustrations and uncertainty

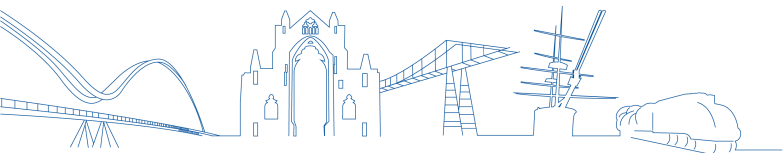


Next steps

- Tees Valley system partners have agreed to implement and expand the use of innovative 'Free-Flap Surgery' (where appropriate), as part of the Breast Cancer pathway to improve outcomes for patients. This surgery is undertaken at James Cook Hospital and commenced in October 2021.
- The Northern Cancer Alliance has established a Managed Clinical Network for Breast Cancer Services:

The vision of the managed clinical network is to enhance the quality of breast cancer services including breast cancer screening, diagnostics and treatment services, thus enhancing care across organisations; jointly reducing inequality, improving outcomes and patient experience in alignment with the recommendations in the NHS Long Term Plan.

- Future plans for the service model will be progressed through this approach with an initial focus on building capacity and resilience in the breast imaging workforce.



Adult Learning Disability Respite Update



- **January 2020:** CQC inspection resulting in a ‘must do’ action relating to compliance with the Mixed Sex Accommodation (MSA) regulation
- **March 2020:** Temporary closure of day and respite services in response to initial outbreak of Covid-19. Outreach service formed
- **Sept 2020 – Sept 2021:** The project group discussed all service options and it was agreed that a revised service was delivered that offered up to a maximum of 6 beds across the two sites (11 to 6 beds respite) due to further covid waves and staffing constraints
- **Current state:** As agreed with the project group, both units are open and offering a combined 6 places at any one time which is at reduced service capacity but means we can meet both the Infection Prevention Control (IPC) and the Mixed Sex Accommodation (MSA) regulations. Workforce challenges continue in line with all other health and social care provision.
- **Future state:** The initial set of architect plans have been received exploring 4 options; remodel existing building, new build and use of two other TEWV estates. Further actions required with the view to review January 2022.
- **Family Carers:** remain engaged through frequent project group meetings, direct contact and regular updates. Representatives sit on the project group.

