

Meeting of the PCA Breast Care Nurses Group

Monday 5th March 2018: 09:30-11:15

The Arundell Arms Hotel, Fore Street, Lifton, PL16 0AA

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

This group will observe the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) which allows a general right of access to recorded information including minutes of meetings, subject to specific exemptions. No one present today had any objections to their names being distributed in the minutes.

Draft Notes

Reference

- 1.0 **Welcome and Introductions**
- 1.1 Refer to separate record of [attendance](#).
- 1.2 NK provided the group with an overview of the structure, function and purpose of the Peninsula Cancer Alliance.
- 2.0 **Meeting Minutes**
- 2.1 The previous BCN meeting was held jointly with the Familial Breast Cancer Group (FBCG) -the minutes from that meeting will be ratified today.
- 3.0 **Terms of Reference**
- 3.1 **Action:** NK will email the group with a draft terms of reference document (based on the Southwest Chemotherapy Nurses ToR) for comments.
- 3.2 The ToR will be agreed at the next meeting.
- 4.0 **Group Chair**
- 4.1 It was agreed that following the next meeting in September, chairmanship will be handed over to Gillian Gray, Lead Breast Cancer Nurse at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital.
- 5.0 **Updates from across the Peninsula**
- 5.1 **North Devon District Hospital (NDDH)**
- 5.1.2 Breast cancer services were being supported by a visiting surgeon from Exeter and visiting consultants to support clinics. However, multiple issues resulted in a management decision to discontinue the support provided by Exeter at NDDH and re-advertise the vacant breast surgeon position.
- 5.1.3 It was decided that NDDH breast care services should continue to run as a stand alone service for symptomatic breast patients; (screening services are not provided).

Peninsula Cancer Alliance

5.1.4 One of the Breast Care Nurses recently completed a course at the Marsden Hospital; '*Cancer as a long term condition*'; this was very useful and provided information about treatment summaries and health and wellbeing clinics.

5.2 Exeter

5.2.1 The team currently has 5 consultants and 6 WTE breast care nurses.

5.2.2 Infoflex (an IT system) will go live this year and the team is currently working on supported self-management, end of treatment summaries and nurse led appointments. The BCNs will also start to see DCIS patients for their end of treatment summaries.

5.2.3 Patients are currently attending a generic health and wellbeing event, from May there will be a site specific H&W clinic for pre-op breast cancer patients.

5.2.4 A job plan is being drawn up for a band 4 breast care nurse assistant role/with a combined admin support function.

5.2.5 There are increasing numbers of metastatic breast cancer patients with limited capacity to provide support reported and no current plans for a dedicated secondary breast cancer nurse.

5.2.6 Exeter relies on FORCE to provide psychological support, however they are currently working at full capacity.

5.2.7 Exeter has 2 reconstructive nurses and Rachel Tillett (Consultant Surgeon) is keen to develop her DIEP service.

5.2.8 A nipple tattooing service is currently provided by the max-fax team although there have been challenges in respect of funding for this treatment.

5.3 INHEALTH Breast Screening Update

5.3.1 The service is expanding and it has been challenging to ensure that services are standardised across the region. A nurse's forum has been established which is helpful.

5.3.2 Result clinics are still being provided in North Devon and the patients are very pleased about this.

5.3.3 There are plans for a screening unit to provide a service in Ilfracombe.

5.3.4 A vacuum biopsy service has commenced (predominantly stereotactic) and it is hoped that this will be provided on a routine basis, potentially freeing up capacity in Exeter where patients would otherwise be referred.

5.4 Torbay

5.4.1 A metastatic breast cancer nurse (30hrs/week) has been in post since the summer of 2017; this enables patients to receive consistent care and support.

5.4.2 Torbay currently provides generic health and wellbeing events; it was thought

that site specific events would be preferable.

- 5.4.3 Pathology will move to Exeter as of 1st April, it is unclear whether this will have a significant impact on CWT.
- 5.4.4 Due to the retirement of a clinical psychologist, a band 5 counsellor will soon be in post to support patients.
- 5.4.5 BCNs hope to have the opportunity to develop their scope of practice; to include punch biopsies and PGDs.
- 5.4.6 Current practice varies as to when HNAs are carried out; it is unclear how end of treatment summaries will be undertaken.
- 5.4.7 It was noted that lymphoedema services differed across the Peninsula.

6.0 **AOB**

- 6.1 At the next meeting, the group would like feedback from the H&W clinics and the metastatic module provided by the Marsden. Michelle Knight (metastatic breast cancer nurse from Torbay) will be invited to the next meeting to report back on her year in post.
- 6.2 Next meeting date: Monday 24th September 2017 (details to be confirmed nearer the time).