



# Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance

Spring 2020

## Message from Glenn Douglas, Executive Lead for the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance

I am really pleased to say that further to the previous success reported in our autumn update, Kent and Medway's cancer performance has continued to improve.

In December, we met the national standard for 62-day urgent referral to treatment for the first time in more than five years.

I would personally like to thank and say well done to everyone involved across the system, in achieving this improvement – it has quite rightly received some positive media coverage (read more below).

As well as this good news, there have been positive developments with our



prehabilitation programme in Medway as well as the digital innovation work supporting personalised cancer care.

This is my last cancer update before I retire at the end of March. I am pleased to welcome my successor, Wilf Williams, who will be taking over as Accountable Officer for the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, and we will be working with him to appoint the new Cancer Alliance Executive Lead.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued hard work and support and I wish you every success for the future.

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## Kent and Medway beats 62-day cancer target to be second in country

Cancer teams from the four hospital trusts in the county made sure 85.6 per cent of patients seen in December did not wait more than two months for cancer treatment, following an urgent referral from their GP.

This means the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance is the second highest performing alliance in the country - just 18 months after we were consistently performing bottom in the country.



You can read the [full press release here](#). It includes detail on the significant improvements that have been made and three case studies of prostate cancer patients, including Ralph Clarkson (pictured above right).

## **In the news**

The news of Kent and Medway's 62-day standard performance was shared widely across social media. On **Facebook**, we shared seven posts, which reached more than 4,000 people and received nearly 1,000 likes, positive comments and shares. On **Twitter**, we shared 10 tweets, which were viewed more than 8,000 times by users.

The news story was picked up by **ITV Meridian**, which broadcast a pre-filmed story featuring Professor Madaan at Darent Valley Hospital and one of our patient case studies, Tristan Swain, on their 6pm news programme on Tuesday, 25 February.

On Saturday, 7 March, **BBC Radio Kent** interviewed Professor Madaan and another of our patient case studies, Ralph Clarkson, live on the Pat Marsh morning programme. This broadcast can be listened to [here](#) and begins around 2:27:30.

We received print coverage of the story in both the **Maidstone and Sheerness Messenger papers** and the **Downs Mail** covered the story from an MTW angle in their online publication.

Key messages included Professor Madaan's comments about the collaboration across the four hospital trusts and with partners across the alliance to make the improvements happen, as well as the constant focus on patient outcomes, care and experience. All patients who were featured were also positive about their care and the speed at which they received cancer treatment.

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## Medway's prehab programme launches patient steering group



Ahead of the launch of the community prehabilitation programme in Medway, Dr Tarannum Rampal and colleagues Roberto and James held their first patient steering group meeting.

Former cancer patients, who had completed the hospital-based prehab programme before their surgery, attended the meeting to discuss their experiences, how the programme helped them and what improvements could be made.

Barbara, 87, who took part in the prehab programme for four months before her surgery in May 2019 said, "The diet and exercise advice was vital. Before I went in for surgery, I felt fitter than I had in years and sharing the experience with other patients was really important. It made you feel like you weren't alone and helped encourage a little healthy competition on the exercise bikes."

Dr Rampal said: "We are very grateful to our patients for joining us and sharing their valuable feedback to help shape and improve this innovative programme.

patient voice is heard as we develop is vital.”

## In the news

On Tuesday, 3 March, **BBC South East** filmed Dr Rampal and Exercise Physiologist Roberto Caza-Lagigas, as well as a number of patients, to talk about the success of the hospital-based prehabilitation programme for people anticipating major surgery for cancer and the reasons why it is now being rolled-out to four community venues across Medway. The community programme is funded by the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance.

The footage was broadcast on the 6pm news programme that evening. The social media posts about this filming created more than 1,000 impressions on Twitter and reached 550 people on Facebook.



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Did you know...

We are now on Twitter - find us @NHSMCA

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## Digital innovations improving personalised care

### **Electronic holistic needs assessment (eHNA)**

Our four hospital trusts are now offering cancer patients the option to complete an electronic holistic needs assessment (eHNA), which details their total health and wellbeing needs. The eHNA moves the previously face-to-face and paper-based assessment to an electronic version. The next phase of developing this tool is to create an online portal for patients to complete the assessment at home. As a result, more patients will have their total health needs met, they will experience more personalised support and realise the benefits assessment and care planning.

### **Remote monitoring systems**

We are making significant progress to implement remote monitoring systems in breast, colorectal and prostate cancer tumour groups. This will enable some patients to go on the supported self-management remote follow-up programme. This means they will no longer need to attend follow-up appointments at the hospital, helping them to move on after treatment.

Clinical teams will continue to monitor patients by arranging relevant tests and scans, reviewing results and keeping patients up-to-date. Patients can contact these teams with any questions or concerns, or be referred for an urgent appointment if tests indicate this is needed.

The breast remote monitoring system is live at Medway NHS Foundation Trust and is being rolled-out across the county. Testing for the colorectal and prostate remote monitoring systems finished in January and the pilot will be rolled-out in April.

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## Have you heard...

We are hosting a **Cancer Digital Strategy Workshop** on **Wednesday, 29 April** at the Great Danes Hotel. If you would like to attend, please email [england.kmcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:england.kmcanceralliance@nhs.net)

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## Farewell Raymon

Our thanks and farewell to Raymon Atoyewun who has now left the digital/living with and beyond cancer/personalised care project.

Raymon did a fantastic job engaging with stakeholders and taking forward the breast remote monitoring system and recovery package interventions which are now live across all trusts. He has also led the development of the prostate and colorectal remote monitoring systems which are being tested by providers.

The Kent and Medway Cancer Collaborative InfoFlex Team at East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust will now be picking up this project and we are committed to the development and completion of this work.

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## Have you seen...

Kent Public Health Observatory's annual report on Cancer? Find it [here](#).

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**For more information on any of the items in this newsletter and the work of the Kent and Medway Cancer Alliance, email: [england.kmcanceralliance@nhs.net](mailto:england.kmcanceralliance@nhs.net)**

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