



Update on Southampton's Targeted Lung Health Check programme



Report to the Wessex Cancer Alliance Board	
Title:	Update on Southampton's Targeted Lung Health Check programme
Sponsor	Rob Chambers, Head of Programmes WCA
Date:	10 September 2020
Purpose	Information
Issue to be addressed:	One of ten sites nationally to be selected for the Targeted Lung Health Checks Pilot Programme, Southampton along with all sites nationally was paused in March due to COVID-19. The National Team request all sites move to restart services as soon as reasonably practicable, by March 2021 latest.
Response to the issue:	Southampton is the first site Nationally to restart the TLHC service, and has now been live for 2 weeks, initially in a soft re-launch to recall all members of the public called for screening in March and subsequently paused.
Implications:	Both by design and approach to the service development and the response to the COVID situation, the Southampton and Wessex team have been recognised and praised by the regional and national teams for their work in the development and implementation of this service.
Risks:	The current most significant risk to the delivery of the service is that the national funding has yet to be confirmed for 2020/21 financial year and is currently running at risk.
Summary:	<p>The Board is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note that the service is live - Note the feedback from the national team - Support the Core team in seeking confirmation of funding for the service from the national cancer programme.



Background

- Southampton was one of 10 sites in England to be the first to introduce Targeted Lung Health Checks. The programme saw the first participants in January 2020 but was paused in March due to Covid
- Participants aged between 55 and 74 years old will (and registered with a Southampton GP practice) who are smokers and former smokers will be invited to a virtual lung health check. Alternatives are available for those patients for whom a virtual appointment is not appropriate. Those participants who require a CT scan (after being risk assessed) will have this carried out in a mobile CT scanner near to the participant
- Planning for a resumption of the programme began in May and worked to a September recommencement date



Current situation

- All key clinical posts filled
- Digital system (end to end process) operational
- Mobile CT scanner and support vehicle tested and in place at Royal South Hampshire Hospital site
- The programme went live again on 24th August (as planned). Those participants whose appointments in March were cancelled were prioritised and were the first to go through the revised virtual pathway
- For the week commencing 24th August – 29 participants undertook their Lung Health Checks and 16 went on to have low dose CT scans
- Southampton has had an Operational Readiness call with the national leads for the programme, who were satisfied with progress and the following has been received from David Fitzgerald, Programme Director of the NHS Cancer Programme:



Feedback from National Cancer Programme



“The national team are delighted and very grateful of the work of the Southampton Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) team, the pioneering project to resume the TLHC programme following the COVID pandemic.

This is an essential part of the recovery work to restore the impact on lung cancer pathways and assist with detecting lung cancers earlier – lung cancer referrals have dropped more sharply and been slower to recover than other tumour sites during the pandemic – probably as a result of overlapping symptoms with the coronavirus.

The Phase Three Planning letter from Simon Stevens and Amanda Pritchard included a request for local systems to re-start lung health check projects, it is great to see Southampton leading the way on this. We have also noted that Southampton is also one of the first TLHC projects to submit a complete evaluation dataset set to our evaluators Ipsos MORI.

The learning and expertise Southampton have acquired will be invaluable to help support resumption of the national TLHC programme.”





Next steps

- Raise the profile of Lung Health Checks in Southampton with communication campaign
- Clarify funding arrangements with NHSE/I
- Monitor take-up of response to Lung Health Check invites and take remedial action where needed
- Monitor conversion rate to CT scans as this could impact on future planning

