

# Black Country Provider Collaborative

On behalf of Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

## Welcome

The new year has brought with it many more exciting developments for the Black Country Provider Collaborative.

In this newsletter you will be able to read about the visions and plans for future working within the Black Country, information about a proposed new skin hospital and the plans for the next clinical summit.

We hope you find the following information interesting and informative.

### Update from Diane Wake – Senior Responsible Officer

After a challenging start to 2022 with the Omicron wave putting a hold on many of the planned Provider Collaborative events, we are now getting back to our normal pace of work within our two Improvement Programmes (Clinical and Corporate).

It is an exciting time for us, starting to bring together the clinical vision of our newly formed clinical networks, commencing engagement with primary care, councils and providers of non-acute services in the Black Country whilst also submitting bids for national funding to support delivery of our plans. This will culminate in the fourth clinical summit on Monday (March 7th) at which we are expecting up to 200 attendees.

The level of engagement and interest across our four organisations is incredible and I am looking forward to seeing where that energy and enthusiasm can take us on our journey to providing the best healthcare services for our Black Country patients.



*Diane Wake - Senior Responsible Officer*

# A specialist skin hospital for the Black Country

Plans are being worked on for a new multi-million-pound Black Country Skin Hospital for rapid cancer diagnostics, elective cancer surgery and dermatology services.

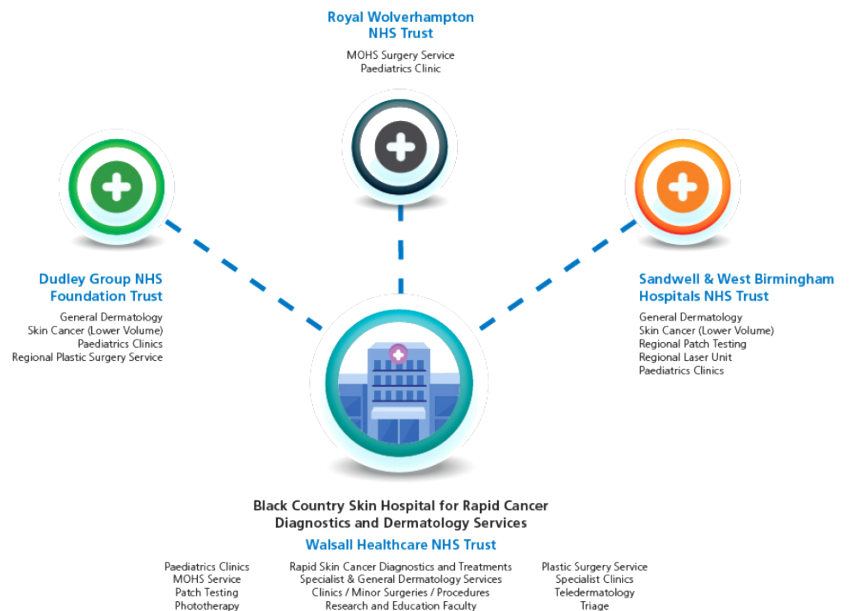
The £26m skin hospital is planned to be near Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and provide services for all four NHS Trusts in the partnership. The project is currently awaiting funding approval.

The innovative proposals are being put in place in response to increased demand on two week wait referrals, the need for rapid cancer diagnostics, workforce gaps and constraints of the current hospital estates.

In Walsall alone in 2021, over 22,000 patients received an outpatient service which is almost at the maximum the current service can support. With a predicted demand growth of 3.7 per cent year on year, the service will soon “outgrow” the environment.

Recruitment is also an issue, with newly qualified consultants being drawn to larger services and small departments struggling to recruit. A collaborative approach across the Black Country as a “single” workforce would support services to recruit by offering the stability of a large service and the attractions of subspecialist clinics, research and training

It will see significant improvements in all aspects of Dermatology and skin cancer provision across all four NHS Trusts involved, using a joint Dermatology workforce with diagnostic, treatment and minor surgeries being performed in one location.



The plans envisage the new hub hospital to be built on the site of the former Nurse Education Centre shown below and an artist’s impression of the site is on the right.



# Update on events

## Primary care engagement event, held January 12th

This online event was aimed at introducing GP leads to the provider collaborative, our nine clinical leads, and the developing clinical transformation work. It was the first primary care engagement event and was well attended.

There was a lot of interest in involving GPs with the design of new pathways from the very beginning of the process.

The feedback gained was that future events should be centralised about specific topics. Plans are now in place for a programme of summer events which will be more targeted.

## Fourth Acute Collaboration Clinical Summit (postponed from February) – due to be held March 7th

The fourth acute collaboration clinical summit will be held on March 7th.

The away day will be focused on bringing together clinicians and staff from 15 different specialities to progress the work being undertaken around clinical transformation. It will be held at the Hawthorns Stadium in West Bromwich.

It will concentrate on the work carried out over the last four months since the clinical leads were appointed.

There will be an update from the review Ernst and Young has carried out to map our current services and make recommendations about what we could do to improve. The public accountant company has been asked to find the best way of creating the most sustainable services to maximise patient outcomes. There will also be an update on the Integrated Care System (ICS) cancer pathway review.

The event will help all specialities to come together and decide which areas to focus on going forward.

Mark Axcell, Black Country Healthcare Chief Executive and Interim Chief Executive Designate for the Black Country Integrated Care Board, will be giving an update on the ICS development and there will be a welcome from Diane Wake and Jonathan Odum.

If you would like to attend and haven't received an invite, please email [ellie.hadlington@nhs.net](mailto:ellie.hadlington@nhs.net)

We look forward to updating you on the event in the next newsletter.

# Digital, Data and Technology

A contract has been awarded for a shared patient tracker system across the provider trusts, using the latest artificial intelligence (AI) technology. C2-Ai Patient Tracking List Triage system will enable clinicians to rapidly access patients against their risk of mortality and complications to ensure we reduce waiting lists safely. By providing a consolidating view with one system, patients will be able to access treatment more quickly and equally, no matter where they are located across the Black Country.

We have also awarded a contract for cancer analytics to support quality improvement and clinical service re-design. We have selected Agilisys

who will help us on a trial basis, in looking at our pathways and streamlining them based on new insight. The aim of this will be to improve our diagnostic waiting times and support better outcomes for patients.

Another exciting project we are currently focusing on is the West Midlands Imaging Network for radiology. This collaboration will provide a more seamless experience for patients by linking up services in the region.

Plans are still progressing to make it easier for our teams to work across the different trusts. This is technically challenging, but it is one of our key priorities to support workforce mobility.



The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust



The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust



Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust



Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust