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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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Welsh Government

## Consultation Document

### Together against Cancer

Tackling Cancer by Delivering Fast, Effective and Personal  
Cancer Care across Wales

A Delivery Plan for NHS Wales up to 2016

Date of issue: **19 December 2011**

Action required: Responses by **5 March 2012**

## Overview

This consultation invited views and comments on the Welsh Government's draft strategy for a National Cancer Delivery Plan For NHS Wales.

## How to respond

Please respond by **5 March 2012**.

Response forms can be sent to the following address:

Adult and Children's Health  
Medical Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Or completed electronically and sent to e-mail:  
adultsandchildrenshealth@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

## Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.

## Contact details

For further information:

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## Data protection

### How the views and information you give us will be used.

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

# ***Together Against Cancer***

Wales is aiming at people's health and health care services matching the best in the world.

For cancer, this means the Welsh Government, the NHS, cancer charities, hospices and the public all working together across Wales. This plan says what we can do together between now and 2016.

***Welsh Government  
NHS Wales***

# PERSON CENTRED CARE

**PREVENTING**  
cancer

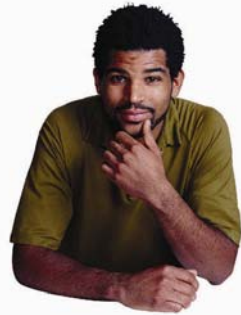
**DETECTING**  
cancer quickly

**TARGETING**  
research

**DELIVERING**  
fast, effective care

**IMPROVING**  
information

**SUPPORTING**  
living with cancer



## **Message by the Minister for Health and Social Services**

This plan sets out my hopes for what the Government and NHS, working with its partners, can achieve in tackling cancer over the next few years.

In 2006, Wales published its policy, *Designed to Tackle Cancer in Wales*. This aimed to achieve incidence and survival rates for cancer similar to the best in Europe. This document confirms and updates those ambitions.

The NHS must and will promote and protect the health of people in Wales and plan and deliver high quality cancer services. But the NHS is only a part of the picture. Every one of us can help make a difference. Our risk of cancer is heavily influenced by the environment and our own behaviour. Stopping smoking, drinking and eating sensibly and taking regular exercise reduces the risk of cancer.

We are building on a record of success. More lives are being saved so more people are living longer. Wales has seen some of the more significant improvements in cancer survival in the United Kingdom during the last few years. But overall cancer is increasing and while that is in part the result of our population getting older and doing better there are signs that, for example, alcohol-related cancers are increasing.

We now need to improve our efforts to prevent cancer and further develop services in all parts of Wales to close the gap between the most and least deprived communities, we compare better with the best in Europe.

The messages are clear. Together we must do more to avoid cancer. We want to focus on earlier diagnosis and the best treatment. We want to deliver survival rates amongst the best in Europe and the world with patient experiences that are second to none.

## **A. Our Vision**

The outcome the Welsh Government wants for the population of Wales and what this means for NHS cancer services is set out below.

### ***The outcome we want***

*People of all ages in Wales to enjoy good physical health.*

### ***We expect NHS Wales to:***

- *help people live a healthy lifestyle and minimise their risk of cancer;*
- *detect cancer quickly where it does occur or recur;*
- *deliver fast, effective treatment and ongoing support to give people the best possible chance of recovery, so they feel well informed and able to cope with the effects of cancer; and*
- *plan and deliver the patient journeys that best suit every individual.*

## **B. How well are we doing in Wales on cancer?**

Cancer remains too common in Wales. It will affect around a third of people before they reach 75 and around 4 out of 10 people at some stage during their lifetime. Of particular concern is the higher number of people who develop or die from cancer among our more deprived communities.

Cancer is increasing, up 22% over 1995-2009, with some 16,000 new cases a year. This is partly because cancer mainly affects older people and their numbers in the overall population are growing, but the increase is more than can be explained by an ageing population. Many cancers – an estimated 43%- are avoidable by, for example, not smoking, better diets, regular exercise and reducing alcohol. The most common cancers - breast, lung, colorectal and prostate – account for just over half of the total.

Childhood cancers are rarer, but are the commonest cause of death from disease in 1-14 year olds. They show a different pattern, mainly affecting blood and brain, have a higher cure rate after intensive treatment, but also have greater long term effects on a child's growth, development, mental health and future reproduction.

However, while cancer occurred more often between 1995 and 2009, deaths fell by 1% to around 8,400 a year. At the end of 2009, almost 85,000 people were alive who had been diagnosed with cancer in the past 15 years (just under 3% of the population).

The rates of people surviving cancer has improved but still varies greatly. For prostate cancer the 5-year survival rate (which measures the number of people still alive 5 years after diagnosis) is 78% and for breast cancer it is 82%. For lung cancer

it is only 7%, which underlines the vital importance of stopping smoking. Survival rates were slightly higher for women than men, but the gap is decreasing as survival rates for men have increased more quickly.

We have improved our survival rates and we want to do even better. Where we once had the worst survival rate in the United Kingdom across all cancers, in recent years we have reduced the survival gap to within 2 percentage points of the best. We have seen some of the greatest increases in 1 and 5 year survival in men and 1 and 5 year survival in women. Survival rates at 5 years after diagnosis is a good indicator of the effectiveness of treatment.

All the evidence and research tells us we must focus all our efforts on:–

- **Preventing** cancer.
- **Detecting** cancer quickly.
- **Delivering** fast, effective care.
- **Supporting** living with cancer.
- **Improving** information.
- **Targeting** research.

So this is where we want to focus our efforts to make significant improvements next.

### **C. *What will NHS Wales services look like in 2016?***

To make real and substantial progress towards achieving our vision, we want to see the following things by 2016.

#### **Better health for everyone:–**

- comparable cancer incidence rates with the lowest in Europe;
- a smaller gap in the incidence of cancer between the most and least deprived communities;
- similar or falling levels of obesity, smoking, drug and alcohol abuse; and
- people everywhere enjoying more years of good quality life without cancer.

#### **Better access to NHS services:-**

- quick and easy to make appointments with GPs;
- easy to find and read information and support on cancer from local pharmacies;
- more NHS support available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year;
- fast diagnosis and treatment of cancer;
- more local services meaning less need to travel, particularly for diagnosis and for care after treatment;

- more people taking their invitation to cancer screening programmes;
- everyone with cancer is assessed and given treatment which their doctors know increases the chance of cure and reduces side effects;
- more information on reducing the risk and symptoms of cancer and services available by telephone and on-line;
- people who have had cancer are seen quickly by a cancer specialist if there is suspicion it has come back; and
- more men ask the NHS for help quicker where they suspect cancer.

**Better service safety and quality:-**

- comparable cancer survival rates with the best in Europe;
- similar chance of recovering from cancer for everyone, wherever in Wales they live and whoever they are;
- NHS systems and services are in place to assure high quality cancer care matching or surpassing the best in the world, so people have a better chance of making a full long term recovery from cancer;
- all patient journeys, including more specialist care and palliative and end of life care where needed, are well co-ordinated, are as local as possible with services which meet National Cancer Standards and other national guidelines and;
- specialist hospital cancer care is in centres of excellence matching or surpassing the best in the world; and
- flourishing cancer research to improve treatment and making NHS Wales an attractive place to live and work for first class doctors, nurses and other clinicians.

**Better Information:-**

- first class IT and communication links to give clinical staff fast, safe and secure access anywhere in Wales to the information needed to help patients;
- more information for people tailored to meet their individual needs; and
- easy to find published information on the performance of NHS cancer care in terms of safety, effectiveness and patients' views.

**Better Support:-**

- everyone receives their best patient journey from presentation, to diagnosis, to treatment, to follow up and survivorship;
- services that guarantee the dignity and respect for every patient;
- transport to clinics and hospitals are made as easy as possible;

- patients understand their condition and what to look out for and what to do and which service to access should problems occur;
- Key Workers co-ordinate care and support each person with cancer in a joint agreement;
- people's needs are assessed and recorded in care plans and services designed around meeting those needs;
- direct access to services for cancer patients in whom recurrent disease is suspected; and
- people's views on services are sought regularly and acted on to ensure continuous improvement.

#### ***D. What will we do to get there?***

The Welsh Government, the NHS, its partners and the public all have a role to play together against cancer. Over the coming years up to 2016 -

##### **The Welsh Government will:-**

- redouble our efforts to focus on raising public awareness of positive lifestyle improvements e.g. a new emphasis on alcohol, obesity, smoking and exercise;
- look for ways of encouraging people to recognise symptoms of cancer and go to their GP quickly;
- introduce new health checks for people over 50;
- create a powerful information website – easy to access and easy to use;
- issue a National Cancer Delivery Plan for the NHS; and
- hold the NHS to account on how well it helps people to minimise their risk of cancer and how well it treats and cares for people with cancer.

##### **The NHS, working with cancer charities and hospices will:-**

- make every healthcare interaction an opportunity to focus on lifestyle changes;
- raise awareness among the public and GPs of the first signs of cancer;
- increase opportunities for GPs to send patients directly for diagnostic tests;
- publish a local plan to help people live healthily and to create safe, sustainable cancer services for all communities;
- find and treat cancer quickly and effectively using latest effective drugs and technology;
- develop services so people can access an 'acute oncology' service in every district general hospital;

- redesign complex cancer surgery to help every patient recover quickly in line with the latest emerging best practice;
- speed up the introduction of known effective new treatments and technologies;
- give each person with cancer a Key Worker and individual care plan;
- quickly diagnose and treat any recurrence of cancer;
- give patients the individual follow up care they need, matching their individual needs;
- give people the ongoing support and information they need to help cope with the long term effects of cancer;
- encourage all its staff dealing with cancer to review and update local practice in line with the best;
- and give them the information they need to do their jobs well;
- support cancer research to ensure better treatment in the future; and
- compare its performance on cancer with the best.

**We will all help everyone in Wales to:-**

- take responsibility for their own health and take steps to improve it by not smoking and following health advice on alcohol, diet and exercise;
- identify cancer early and know exactly what to do about it;
- take up their invitation, if they are in the right age group, from our breast, cervical and bowel cancer screening programmes;
- ask the NHS for help when worried and upset;
- find out what they need about cancer, its avoidance and services that are available and they can draw on all the help available.

***E. How will we know we are succeeding?***

- Each year, clear concise information will be published showing progress across Wales and where you live.
- The NHS will ask people about the services they receive and publish and act on the results.

By working together, focusing on the needs of people and by being open and honest about how we are doing, we will make the difference we all want.

We have made improvements. Working together against cancer, we can do even better.