



**Wolverhampton Patient Advisory Cancer Team  
(PACT)**

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday, 13 September 2018  
From 9.30 to 12.00 pm

At 'The Beeches', Penn Hospital, Wolverhampton

<b>PRESENT:</b>	David Hellyar (DH)	Chair
	Robin Comley (RC)	Treasurer
	Diane Wright (DW)	Patient
	Janet Aldridge (JA)	Patient
	Jean Hancox (JH)	Patient
	Lesley Thorpe (LT)	Macmillan Primary Care Nurse Facilitator
	Hilary Waite (HW)	Macmillan Information Centre Manager
	Jacqui Cutler (JC)	Minutes

**APOLOGIES:** Pat Roberts, Tracey Weetman, Pavitter Mainn,  
Simeon Greene, Michelle Winstone.

<b>Agenda No.</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Introduction and Apologies</b> David welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for those who could not attend.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous Meeting</b> These were agreed as correct with the exception of <i>item 3.3 Mobile Breast Screening Service</i> – which should read ....they would write to <u>Eleanor</u> Smith the MP for Wolverhampton South West.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

#### **3.1 A & E Waiting Area**

With regard to the ongoing problem with the acoustics in this waiting area, David asked if anyone had visited, and noticed any difference in the scene. No-one had been recently, so we didn't know if this had been "done" yet, or not. We would wait and see.

#### **3.2 G.P. Letters**

Please see the Minutes of 19 July 2018. As had been mentioned at previous Meetings, it did seem that it was often dependent on the individual Department/Consultant as to how helpful these letters were.

#### **3.3 Mobile Breast Screening Service**

The inadequacies surrounding this Service are complex (as has become clear at previous Meetings), and the situation seems far from being resolved. Discussion followed around the Mobile Breast Screening Van. Lesley Thorpe said she would look into where it is currently sitting. Janet Aldridge, as a Wombourne resident is aware that the Van has now left Wombourne, after being stationed there for a long time. The other one is "static" at New Cross Hospital, and has been for years.

DH had written again regarding his email from NHS England. Although there were plans for major changes in the Service, this email response indicated that the "provider" of the Service, would continue to be Dudley NHS Foundation Trust for this area. **ACTION:** David said that he planned to refer PACT's concerns to the Dudley Trust Chairperson.

Jean Hancox felt that the time had now come to write to Eleanor Smith (MP for Wolverhampton SW) about our major concerns and dissatisfaction with this situation.

We would obviously need to provide the correspondence chain (emails and letters from and to David Hellyar); in the "case" we put to Eleanor Smith. Jean thought that after Eleanor had had time to respond, we should perhaps approach the local press. David said that he would follow this line if his approach to the Dudley Trust Chairperson did not achieve the desired result.

#### **3.4 Car Parking charges**

As discussed at the previous meeting, DH had written to Healthwatch. He had now received replies.

Elizabeth Learoyd the Executive Director had said that Tracy Cresswell would be taking charge of this issue, as Manager of Healthwatch, Wolverhampton.

### **3.5 Specialised Cancer Centre**

David had written to David Loughton and received a reply from him, thanking PACT for its support. He has recently been appointed Chair of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance Board. DH had also copied his letter to the relevant person at the CCG, as had been mentioned at PACT's last meeting in July. He had heard no more from the CCG, however.

### **4. RWHT update**

In the absence of Tracey Weetman, Hilary Waite brought us up-to-date with what was happening at New Cross:

She said that they have some new Finance staff in the Cancer Directorate.

As regards the Cancer waiting times, work continues in earnest to improve waits, and meet the targets. Lesley Thorpe said it did though; depend on which targets you were talking about. This was particularly relevant in Urology, where the RALF (Robot) was used. Due to the small number of Surgeons who were trained to use this "Robot", waits were inevitable. Patients often chose to have this treatment, because of the shorter stay in Hospital and recovery time, compared to conventional surgery. Some of these patients are from other Trusts that do not have robots of their own.

There were also some issues with waiting times for Colo-Rectal and Gynaecology. It was not the 14 day targets that weren't being met, but the 14-62 day targets. As could be appreciated when it came to meeting targets, it was not a straightforward matter. The various clinicians and care staff were all involved in the process, and worked under different time frames and pressures.

Hilary said that suggested revisions to the Terms of Reference had now been drafted by Tracey Weetman, who was currently on leave. Tracey had suggested that she meet with a few members of PACT, on a separate day and time to our regular PACT Meetings to discuss these.

There is a "Look Good, Feel Better" event planned at The Molineux for male Cancer patients. "Look Good, Feel Better" are a Charity and they will provide the funding for this event. The provisional date is Tuesday, 6 November 2018.

Hilary said that they are still in discussion about relocating the Macmillan Information Centre. A decision would be made in October.

However, they would "hang fire", as if and when a Specialised Cancer Centre is built; the Macmillan Information Centre would be incorporated into this.

Regarding the matter of water being available for patients in A&E (Minutes of 19/7/18), it seemed the problem was one of Health and Safety. Part of it was a concern about water being spilt and the subsequent slipping hazard. But there was also the unknown of patients waiting to see a Doctor or Nurse, where they did not know what process or treatment they might immediately need, and where drinking water was not advisable.

**As Lesley Thorpe had to leave the Meeting early, we moved Agenda item 7. forward to this point.**

**7. CCG update**

Lesley told the group about some of the changes in Cancer Services and the STP. Within this the End of Life Group are trying to move things across to the Frailty Group.

The next Cancer Strategy meeting was on the 26 September 2018.

The National Cancer Survey results are due out on 28 September 2018.

Lesley told the group more about the event planned at The Lindens, Tettenhall Road on 21 November. PACT would be having a stand on the day. It was hoped that this event would be as successful as similar events held previously, both here and the ones at The Molineux. There would be workshops and different sessions, with participants from previous events taking part.

At The Molineux on the 18 November a free Prostate Screening event for men (over 45) would be taking place. There would be the opportunity for men to take the PSA Test, and information and advice would be available.

After a successful trial, the CCG are launching the Advanced Care Plan. This will go to all Nursing Homes and Community Nurses, working with Elderly/Frail patients.

On a more personal note, Lesley had got married during the Summer. She would now be known as Lesley Thorpe. Everyone present gave her their congratulations.

**5. PACT Terms of Reference**

Please see above.

Jean Hancox voiced concern that she hoped these had not been changed too much by TW/RWHT. They were PACT's Terms of Reference after all.

**6. Next Year's Meetings**

Due to a lack of time, we would leave this item to the next PACT Meeting in November.

**8. Broadening the PACT forum**

The event at The Lindens in November should play a part in helping with this. LT was putting together a "directory" of Cancer groups for this event, some of whom would be at the event.

Discussion then followed about the ongoing problem of trying to attract new members. The usual issues were still there: making a commitment to regular involvement; the PACT Meeting "format", which could perhaps be off-putting to some.

LT was doing work with "Cancer Champions" – Clerical/Non Clinical Staff in GP Surgeries - who would take charge of information boards for example, to spread the word about services/groups available and to get involved in. They would also be involving local Pharmacists in this.

Going back to the difficulties PACT had, part of it was the problem of contacting the Cancer Support Groups Leads. It was partly because of Data Protection, as Pavitter Mainn had explained to Jacqui Cutler a while ago. However, Hilary Waite said that if we emailed her, she could contact the individual Cancer Support Group leads saying that someone from PACT would like to come and talk to them about the group.

**ACTION:** HW gave DH her card with her contact details.

**9. Members feedback**

As discussed at the last meeting Robin Comley had had problems trying to get the correct liquid food prescriptions. This has now been resolved, and Robin thanked Lesley for her intervention in this. He still has to collect the prescription from the Chemist, rather than having it delivered to his home. After discussion, it was thought that this could be changed.

JH asked LT when the CCG were likely to publish their Commissioning intentions for 2019. Lesley said she did not know, but would come back to us.

DH asked if there was any progress on the new Head & Neck Unit. Robin said that things were slowly making progress.

Janet Aldridge had a good news story regarding a friend of hers (a former Senior Nurse). Janet's friend had had a Lumpectomy. As a former Nurse she was very exacting with high standards. She had had to be there all day, but a member of staff had stayed with her. She could not fault her treatment at New Cross, while she was in the Appleby Suite.

Unfortunately, Jean Hancox had recently read a bad news story in an article in The Guardian. This was regarding the fact that 1 in 4 Hospital Trusts across the Country are denying women Breast reconstruction Surgery.

This was all about commissioning or not commissioning. At the moment, Wolverhampton CCG had no intention of stopping commissioning Breast reconstruction. The official statement is that they will continue to do so for a further year.

Jean asked David Hellyar if perhaps we could invite Helen Millward, the new Cancer Services Manager, to come to one of our Meetings.

**10. Any Other Business**

There was none.

**11. Date of the next Meeting**

Thursday, 8 November 2018, starting at 9.30 am.