

Meeting	Peninsula Cancer Alliance Board 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Title	Targeted Lung Health Checks Programme
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Agenda Item	AOB
<p>Summary</p> <p>The Targeted Lung Health Checks programme offers the opportunity for early diagnosis to those most at risk of lung cancer (ever smokers) in areas with among the highest lung cancer mortality rates in England.</p> <p>TLHCs work by inviting those between 55 years and 74 years 364 days who have ever smoked to an appointment where lung cancer risk is assessed. If the individual is at higher risk of lung cancer, the participant is offered a low-dose CT scan, which aims to identify lung cancers at an earlier stage. This is followed up with subsequent scans, based on the participants' individual risk and the offer of smoking cessation support.</p> <p>Cornwall has been identified as a 'Priority' area which is strongly recommended for a TLHC project. Devon has not been identified as a priority as it is not in the top 50 CCGs for mortality. If Cornwall were not able to accept then based on capped eligible populations of 50,000, it might be possible to request Plymouth in its place.</p> <p>Areas which are confirmed to host TLHC projects as part of this expansion may vary from these selection criteria at the request of the Cancer Alliance in some limited circumstances, following more in-depth discussions and sharing of local knowledge.</p> <p>As part of national cancer services recovery plan, NHSE/I are interested to hear from Cancer Alliances that have places that are able to commence Targeted Lung Health Checks this year (ahead of the anticipated timeline of April 2022).</p>	
<p>Recommendation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To agree to confirm Cornwall as the priority area in PCA to host the TLHC project with the ambition of commencing ahead of the anticipated timeline of April 2022 in targeted PCNs.</li> </ul>	

**Peninsula Cancer Alliance  
Targeted Lung Health Checks Programme  
29/06/2021**

## **1.0 Background**

On 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 NHSE/I set out proposals for the expansion of the Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC) programme, working with Cancer Alliances and local systems to establish an additional 15-20 TLHC projects nationally, to be fully operational by April 2022 or earlier. They identified one priority area for TLHC expansion in the Peninsula Cancer Alliance area.

The Targeted Lung Health Checks programme offers the opportunity for early diagnosis to those most at risk of lung cancer (ever smokers) in areas with among the highest lung cancer mortality rates in England. The programme is also a flagship contributor to the Long Term Plan ambition to diagnose 75% of cancers at an early stage by 2028.

TLHCs work by inviting those between 55 years and 74 years 364 days who have ever smoked to an appointment where lung cancer risk is assessed. If the individual is at higher risk of lung cancer, the participant is offered a low-dose CT scan, which aims to identify lung cancers at an earlier stage. This is followed up with subsequent scans, based on the participants' individual risk and the offer of smoking cessation support.

There are 23 places in England with a current TLHC project. Trial data suggest that TLHCs can substantially increase early diagnosis of lung cancer. Over the course of a four-year programme around 6,100 cancers will be diagnosed from the existing 23 TLHC projects, with around 4,500 (66%) diagnosed at either stage 1 or stage 2. This compares to 28.9% of lung cancers diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 in 2018. Data from the initial small pilots in Manchester suggest the early diagnosis figure could be as high as 80%.

## **2.0 Selection criteria for new projects**

NHSE/I are planning to cover an additional eligible population of between 750,000 and 1,000,000 people through this expansion. Proposed areas have been selected on the following criteria:

- All Cancer Alliances to have at least one TLHC project to build the knowledge needed across local systems for national roll out.
- Preference for areas with the highest rates of lung cancer mortality (top 50 CCGs) which are not already in the programme.
- A suggested cap of no more than three TLHC projects per Cancer Alliance to manage pressure on local services.
- Any existing TLHC projects within Cancer Alliances must be on track to be fully operational, with no existing barriers to delivery that would impact on a further site(s) going live in April 2022.

Areas which are confirmed to host TLHC projects as part of this expansion may vary from these selection criteria at the request of the Cancer Alliance in some limited circumstances, following more in-depth discussions and sharing of local knowledge.

As part of national cancer services recovery plan, NHSE/I are interested to hear from Cancer Alliances that have places that are able to commence Targeted Lung Health Checks this year (ahead of the anticipated April 2022 start date). This will enable faster and earlier diagnosis for patients with potential lung cancers.

## **3.0 Proposal**

Cornwall has been identified as a 'Priority' area which is strongly recommended for a TLHC project.

As NHSE/I are aiming to offer TLHCs to an additional eligible population of between 750,000 and 1,000,000 people, it is likely that each organisation will be capped at eligible populations of 50,000. However, there may be flexibility to make our offer to fewer organisations with larger populations if Cancer Alliances submit such proposals.

A further 15 places are marked as 'Possible' TLHCs in this latest expansion phase, based on assessment against the selection criteria. We aim to offer up to 5 projects to places from this list on a competitive basis.

Areas not selected as priority at this stage have not been identified as a priority against the selection criteria for this phase of expansion (due to the number of pre-existing or proposed TLHC projects within the Cancer Alliance, or not being placed within the list of CCGs with poorest lung mortality).

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

- Responses are required by Monday 12 July to accept or reject the proposal regarding priority sites and / or propose an alternative site for a TLHC within your Alliance
- Guidance template and timeline: To support with ensuring that all operational requirements can be met, a template outlining what needs to be considered at each stage of preparing to launch TLHCs has been provided to alliances. . The on-boarding template and timeline provides guidance on what information will need to be provided, and when, ahead of launch.
- An introductory webinar will be held for Cancer Alliances within the next few weeks, and the date for this will be circulated to all Cancer Alliances. This will introduce TLHCs, the Standard Protocol, the timeline and resources available to support projects with expansion, along with shared learning from existing projects and the ongoing programme evaluation.