

# Peninsula Pathology Network

## Network development

**Ann James, Chair of Network**

**Peninsula Cancer Alliance**

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2021**



# Network Development to date

An external review of Pathology was commissioned in February 2020 to test out the ambition of the network and make recommendations for improvement.

The outcome from the external review with its recommendations was shared back to the respective Trust Boards in Devon and Cornwall.

There is consensus across partners that the network should continue at a Peninsula level and at this stage operate at Level one.

The development of the Collaborative Agreement was seen to be a critical component to confirm the shared ambition to work together to provide a consistently high quality clinical service.

£400k NHSEI Development Funding expected for next two financial years.

# Network Vision and Objectives

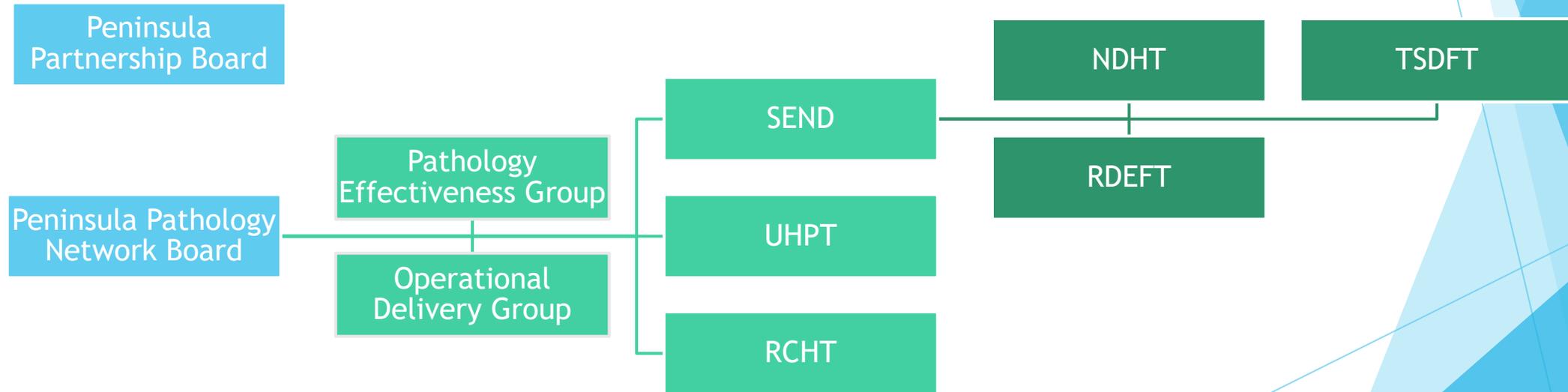
The vision of the Network is *“to provide high quality, innovative pathology services, which will be at the heart of new models of patient centred care”*

The Collaboration Agreement describes the following strategic objectives to be delivered by the Network:-

- ▶ **Objective one** – Establish Governance framework based on Clinical Effectiveness and resource the Clinical Effectiveness Group so it can be successful in driving a quality service judged on whole system impact and outcomes for patients;
- ▶ **Objective two** – support the establishment of three service providers; South, East and North Devon (SEND), Plymouth and Cornwall ensuring that these pathology services meet the present and future health/service needs of both their local and peninsula wide population in accordance with the commissioning intentions and ambitions;
- ▶ **Objective three** – to provide mutual aid support to ensure business continuity and resilience ensuring continuing service delivery during normal operations and in times of crisis;
- ▶ **Objective four** – support service providers in developing workforce plans, which may include working between organisations, to optimise the use of existing personnel, harmonise work practices, create attractive work roles to retain and attract new staff to deliver sustainability of services;
- ▶ **Objective five** - influence wider south west region to agree a high level strategy for progressing pathology IT in the peninsula, as part of requirement to deliver seamless access to patient results; agree plan to maximise interoperability and interconnectivity between systems to allow for the easy and safe transfer of work where required.

# Revised governance wef 1/8/21

The Collaboration Agreement was approved by the Pathology Network on 28<sup>th</sup> April with aim of going to Trust Boards for information. The new governance is on target to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021. The refreshed Terms of Reference have been approved by the Peninsula Partnership Board.



# Pathology Effectiveness Group

Based on 'End-to-End Pathology', the goal is to widen the focus of the pathology service to encompass the entire service, from a clinician considering a test to the patient's interpretation of results.

The Effectiveness Group's scope will be directed by pathology users and will look at approaches ensuring:

- ✓ *There is a valid clinical question*
- ✓ *The tests are necessary, appropriate and sufficient to address that clinical question.*

As well as hearing from users, the work plan will also be directed by the Peninsula Pathology Network Board and/or influenced by the Planned Care Boards and other networks such as Peninsula Cancer Alliance.

**Example** of how we can improve laboratory involvement with the use of the Effectiveness Group – Bowel Cancer Programme – introduction of QFIT/FCAL etc.

# Supporting Cancer pathways - Digital Histopathology

Digital Histopathology is the use of whole slide imaging (WSI) scanners to produce a digital virtual slide that may be viewed on a monitor, annotated on screen, and shared for second opinions by colleagues and experts locally, nationally, and internationally.

The implementation of Digital Histopathology

- ▶ reduces the impact caused by the ongoing national and international Consultant Pathologist recruitment issues,
- ▶ enables remote working,
- ▶ will have a positive impact upon cancer diagnoses waiting times and improve our ability to meet the Pathology Quality Assurance Dashboard (PQAD) target of 90% cancer cases reported in 7 days and 98% in 10 days.
- ▶ Importantly, Digital Histopathology will also aid service restoration post COVID-19.

Due to the sarcoma reporting issue, the Peninsula Cancer Alliance has allocated £200,000 to go towards five new scanners (one for each hospital)

# Supporting Cancer pathways

## - other digital/related developments

The Network is supporting work on **other digital improvements** that will improve the interface with end users such as:-

- ▶ replacement Laboratory Information Systems (LIMS) and
- ▶ Order Communications for requesting tests and reporting results,

In both cases, noting recent links into EPR project

From a **genomic hub** perspective, debate remains about whether single tests on site quickly is of more benefit or not in specific cancer diagnoses/treatment pathways. David Hilton ex UHP and as a 'retire and return' has offered (via Simeon) to support the Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMSA) work on improving pathways via Jon Miller

### Community Diagnostic Hubs

- ▶ in Devon, currently strong focus on imaging/Nightingale as early adopter and year 1, very little on Pathology other than digital interoperability
- ▶ In Cornwall, using offer of £200k for improving point of care testing and phlebotomy in West Cornwall and Bodmin

# How can the two Networks work more effectively together?

- ▶ Sunita Berry to join Pathology Board as part of revised Governance
- ▶ Use of Effectiveness Group as forum for initial engagement with laboratories, either to bring an item or gain a nominee to join a cancer workstream

## Other proposals?