

Health & Social Services Committee

HSS(2)-06-06(p1)

Meeting date: Thursday 23rd March 2006

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Cancer Services for the People of Wales – Scoping Paper

Purpose

1. The Committee proposes to undertake a review of cancer services. This paper sets out some proposals and recommendations on the process and suggests options for the terms of reference.
2. The Committee is invited to:
 - decide the terms of reference for the review;
 - agree the more detailed issues for further consultation;
 - consider how it might obtain any expert advice it needs to inform its deliberations.

Timetable and Process

3. The Committee aims to report by March 2007, so the outline timetable for its work is:
 - April to mid-July - Written consultation and oral evidence from key institutions and organisations.
 - September to December – further oral evidence, including following up responses to the written consultation.
 - January / February 2007 - consideration of evidence and drafting report.
 - March 2007 – publication of report.
4. In addition to evidence being given formally to the Committee, Members of the Committee could gather evidence less formally through visits made individually or in groups and reported back to the Committee.

Background

5. The views of key organisations have been sought to inform Members' consideration of the scope of the review. The Committee Clerk's letter of 22 February sought views on three main areas:
 - i. Service delivery – diagnosis / screening; waiting times; cancer networks; services for children and

young people; the Welsh Cancer and Intelligence Surveillance Unit.

ii. Treatment – surgery; drugs and radiotherapy; complementary therapies.

iii. Care – day care; home care; hospice and other residential care; support for patients, families and carers.

6. Other areas might include staffing and training; prevention; and research.

7. Thirteen responses were received and these are summarised in the Annex.

8. Respondents welcomed, and broadly agreed with, the three suggested areas for review as set out in the consultation letter i.e. service delivery, treatment and care. Several respondents, including Cancer Research UK, showed support for the review to look at the areas of prevention and research. There was also support from 3 respondents, among them the Royal College of Nursing, to look at workforce and commissioning issues.

9. Several organisations acknowledged that these three main areas represent an enormous agenda, and that the more focused the terms of reference the better the outcomes. Members may wish to discuss what outcomes they would like to see achieved by the review. Clarity about the outcomes will help to focus the terms of reference.

10. Two broad themes had consensus across around half of the respondents:

i. Equality of provision and equity of access to the full range of cancer services

Respondents emphasised equality of provision and equity of access to the full range of cancer services as key components of a proposed policy review. Inequalities in relation to primary care services, access to community services, and in provision of equipment; equal access to treatment and care and access and barriers to access for specific communities, such as BME communities, were all mentioned.

ii. The patient at the centre

Respondents emphasised the importance of placing the patient at the centre and the need for there to be seamless integrated care pathways for cancer. The principle of ‘living well with cancer’ was also mentioned in terms of how services are currently enabling people to live well with cancer and this should include a social services dimension as well as health.

Recommendations:

11. Members may wish to consider the following two suggestions, based on analysis of the initial

responses, as useful overarching aims for the review.

Suggestion 1:

Aim: To review equality of provision and equity of access to the full range of cancer services in Wales.

The Committee may then decide upon the specific areas on which to focus in detail i.e. Service Delivery, Treatment and Care or 'Settings of Care', including palliative care.

Suggestion 2:

Aim: To review how statutory and voluntary organisations can best work together to ensure that services provided meet the National Cancer Standards and patients' expectations.

12. There would be scope in both of these suggestions to consider how adequately the principles of patient centred care are mainstreamed across cancer services and how user-involvement is encouraged at all stages of service delivery to ensure a people-centred approach to good quality cancer care.

Sources of Expert Advice

13. There are a number of options for securing expert advice and it may be that more than one will be appropriate, depending on the terms of reference, areas for detailed consultation and the outcomes the Committee wishes to achieve.

14. The Members' Research Service will be able to identify relevant research and other background material.

15. If the review covers a wide spectrum it may be that the Committee would best be served by establishing a reference group, with a range of professional or service user experience.

16. The Presiding Officer has issued guidance on the appointment of expert advisers. This says that an appointment might be appropriate where:

- Appropriate professional, technical or other specialist advice is not available from Assembly staff or by inviting individuals or organisations to give their views to the Committee;
- There will be a regular need for specialist advice or expertise that could lead to repeated requests to organisations or individuals to give evidence;
- It is essential to receive advice independent of the Welsh Assembly government; or
- An expert adviser could help to marshal relevant background material and identifying witnesses.

17. The guidance provides that any appointment of an expert adviser should be made using procedures

that are compatible with the Assembly's Code of Practice on Public Appointments. This could be a lengthy process and might not be the best option if the Committee wants advice in the early stages of the the review.

Further information

18. Members should note that note that Healthcare Inspectorate Wales will be publishing an Inspection Report on the Three Cancer Networks in Wales on 24 March 2006.

Members' Research and Committee Service

March 2006

Annex

Summary of Responses to Consultation on Terms of Reference

Cancer Services Co-ordinating Group

- Patients at centre of planning;
- There should be a seamless care pathway;
- Need services to develop and advise on treatment requirements, palliative care & consider workforce issues;
- Improve data collection;
- Academic research into Cancer should be encouraged by NAW;
- Look at how statutory organisations work together;
- Funding is needed.

Royal College of Radiologists

- More resources are needed;
- Patients at centre of planning;
- Aim to provide cancer treatment as close to a patients home as possible;
- More "one-stop" clinics are needed throughout Wales;
- Services for children should be centred in specialist centres;
- Need to overcome patient confidentiality;
- Treatment – tumour ablation is not fully developed in Wales, more funding is needed;
- Not enough palliative care in Wales.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy

- Need a positive approach;

- Suggested area of "living with cancer";
- Should cover all types of treatments, must include rehabilitation;
- Ensure people surviving cancer have a fulfilling and good quality of life;
- Suggested area of "settings of care", focusing on community settings;
- Look at how independent sector, local authorities and NHS work together;
- Must review workforce;
- Networks should be scrutinised in relation to advice from professionals;
- "Commissioning" should be another area;
- "prevention" another suggested area (not merely surgical & medical);
- Research needed to focus on quality of life/impact on rehabilitation & self management.

NICE

Should take account of NICE guidance on the use of drugs.

College of Occupational Therapists

- Important area to add "access to equitable services";
- Treatment should be more accessible;
- SW area needs more primary care services;
- There are inequalities with regards to access to community services for rehab, follow up and review for these services;
- There is an issue regarding staff training and staffing levels;
- There are inequalities in equipment provisions;
- Should explore whether services are enabling people to live well with cancer;
- With regards to treatments, should include "occupational therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy" as well as "surgical, drugs and radiotherapy"

Royal College of Nursing Wales

Other important areas are:

- Staffing
- workforce planning
- recruitment
- training and new roles.

Cancer BACUP

- Should explore access to information and communication;
- More funding is needed;
- Must ensure that Cancer drugs reach patients as quickly as possible;

- There should be a centrally held "innovation fund" to support rapid use of life saving technologies;
- Data has shown a lower uptake of cancer screening, later diagnosis, and less uptake of palliative care services by people from black and minority ethnic communities.

ABPI Cymru Wales

- Review should include service delivery;
- Treatment and in particular the speed with which new treatments become available once they have been licensed;
- Treatment should also consider how decisions should be made as to the type of treatment offered;
- Information for patients should be easily accessible;
- Should ensure that there are sufficient staff who are adequately trained;
- Consider how the quality of life experienced by cancer patients both during and after treatment can be improved;

The British Dietetic Association

- There should be adequate nutrition education in the prevention of cancer;
- Nutritional support needs adequate funding and further research;
- Domiciliary visits should be available if needed;
- More dietetic funded posts are needed;
- Staffing and training are other issues that need to be reviewed.

National Council for Palliative Care

- Staffing is an area that needs to be reviewed:-
- shortage of consultants in palliative medicine
- shortage of clinical nurse specialists in palliative care
- Lack of resources with regards to specialists palliative care beds.
- The services should be better integrated.
- Committee should consider how better use could be made of currently available resources as well as how to remedy the deficiencies.

Cancer Research UK

Prevention and research are important areas that should be reviewed.

Help the hospices

Looked at providing care in a ;

- voluntary setting;
- NHS unit;
- Day centre setting;
- Home care or hospice at home.

Staffing needs to be reviewed;

- Review whether patients have choice over place of death;
- Patients should be at the centre of everything and services should be considered from their prospective;
- Care services should be developed and expanded;
- Voluntary sector should be developed;
- More funding needed;
- Should consider what barriers there are to cancer services in Wales and how they might be tackled;
- Staffing should also be reviewed.

Cervical Screening Wales

- Access should be available to all;
- More good information should be available;
- Prevention is the key with screening, therefore people should be encouraged to go for a screen;
- Must take into account quality assurance measures;
- A screening programme should be established;
- Funding is needed for the above.