

Priorities for the cancer plan

Question

In your opinion, which of these areas would you like to see prioritised over the next decade? (You can select more than one option)

- Raising awareness of the causes of cancer and how it can be prevented
- Raising awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer
- *Getting more people diagnosed quicker*
- *Improving access to and experiences of cancer treatment*
- Improving after-care and support services

Delivering these priorities

We want to understand how you think we can achieve each of these priorities. In answering this question, you may wish to consider:

- your own experiences of cancer and/or cancer services
- what we can learn from examples of best practice in England and other countries
- what we can learn from how services have been delivered during the pandemic, including the roll-out of the NHS App and COVID-19 vaccination programme
- how we can use new or innovative treatments and technologies

We kindly ask that in your response to these questions, you do not exceed 500 words per question unless absolutely necessary.

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how to raise awareness of the causes of cancer and how it can be prevented?

Public campaigns, including providing information on the methods of diagnosing and treating cancer to make it more accessible to the general public. Those involved in this industry would likely be keen to be involved and provide assistance. Information on cancer, cancer demographics and the varying types would also be helpful as there may be similar symptoms across a wide pool.

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer?

Public campaigns, including providing information on the methods of diagnosing and treatment cancer to make it more accessible to the general public. Those involved in this industry would likely be keen to be involved and provide assistance. Information on cancer, cancer demographics and the varying types would also be helpful as there may be similar symptoms across a wide pool.

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how to get more people diagnosed quicker?

Technology in this space is evolving at an exponential rate. New diagnostics have been developed that allow for faster and more accurate diagnoses, including self-tests or near patient tests. If these products were to be introduced to the NHS, it may increase the speed of patient diagnosis and allow for faster access to treatment.

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how to improve access to and experiences of cancer treatment?

Further funding is needed into the cancer research industry, particularly to rarer or less-known cancers. This is linked to the diagnostics sector who are at the forefront of development for lab developed tests, including for research.

The new Community Diagnostics Centres could be used to provide point of care diagnostic tests and include the use of imaging for initial screening programmes. In the short term, other UK labs could also be used for panel testing on symptomatic individuals as triage, to reduce any backlogs within the NHS.

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how to improve after-care and support services for cancer patients and their families?

NA

Improving data and translating research into practice

Question

Do you have any suggestions for how can we maximise the impact of research and data regarding cancer and cancer services in England, including how we can translate research and data into practice sooner?

There needs to be a more conjoined approach between the healthcare system, patients, researchers and the diagnostics and medical device industries. The end goal of all is to increase patient safety and outcomes, but currently there is little dialogue between the key stakeholders involved.

Introducing a more collaborative approach would allow for quicker information on which technological gaps exist and provide this straight to the individuals in development.