

**Update for the Health and wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on
Cancer Waiting Times at the Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation
June 2016**

In November 2015 The Health and Wellbeing Overview and scrutiny committee was briefed on the challenges being faced by the Trust in relation to delivering cancer targets. Of particular note was:

- the 30% increase in demand over the preceding two years,
- the comprehensive plan to return the Trust to compliance against the cancer targets by April 2016 and
- the continued feedback from patients with 94% rating the cancer care they received as excellent or good.

Since the November briefing a great deal of work has been undertaken by clinical and administrative staff from across the Trust, with the successful implementation of many aspects of the cancer plan. In particular, additional capacity for endoscopic procedures, outpatient clinics and operations has been developed, which has significantly improved the performance of the Trust. Cancer pathways for Urology patients have also been redesigned by the Urology team with the aim of reducing the length of time taken to diagnose and treat patients.

Following the implementation of the improvement plan the Trust is now sustainably achieving the 31 day treatment target. Performance against the 62 –day referral to treatment target has improved significantly, with the Trust failing by only one patient over the target threshold in April 16, compared to 1550 patients referred into the service.

In November 2015 the Trust was inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC,) with the Trust earning a rating of “good” overall and outstanding for “caring.” Their report commented positively upon a number of initiatives which have been implemented in the field of cancer care, such as the “Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) tracker programme” and the “Living with and beyond cancer” programme, which has been developed with support from Macmillan Cancer Support.

The Trust is pleased with the considerable progress which has been made over the past six months, however, the clinical and management teams continue to place considerable focus on making the achievement of all cancer targets sustainable, whilst working hard to maintain the high quality of patient care for cancer patients.

Adrian Harris

Medical Director