

YORKSHIRE CANCER NETWORK

Pathology Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 4th February 2004, 9.30am
Arthington House, Cookridge Hospital

Present:	Dr P DaCosta (Chair)	Airedale NHS Trust
	Dr G Thomas	Calderdale & Huddersfield NHS Trust
	Dr S Lane	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Dr A Anathanam	Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust
	Dr A Andrew	York Hospitals NHS Trust
	Miss H Lamb	Yorkshire Cancer Network
	Mr B Tinkler	

1. Apologies

Professor M Baker, Mr P Melling and Professor P Quirke.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed as being an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

- **Network management of patients update**

Gynaecology

Mr Tinkler highlighted that 'Out-reach' and 'In-reach' models of service have been agreed with each of the Trusts across the Network. Airedale, Bradford, Harrogate and York have agreed to implement an 'Out-reach' model of service and Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust are adopting an 'In-reach' model of service.

All cervical and vulval cases are being referred into Leeds, the transfer of work will be phased over the next several months.

All Harrogate work is being referred into the Centre. York and Mid Yorkshire work will be phased over the next few months. The 'In-Reach' model at Calderdale and Huddersfield will start on 1st March. Airedale and Bradford are being phased on a planned basis.

Mr Tinkler confirmed that the operational and bed capacity is available at Leeds.

Dr Andrew highlighted the concern that there has been little discussion with the gynaecological support services. Mr Tinkler outlined the Leeds team to unit team meetings that were taking place.

Dr DaCosta highlighted that tracking and the returning of material to the Units should be taken seriously at the Centre and built into the planning and resources.

Dr Andrew informed the group that Dr Perren and Mr Lane tabled a Leeds Cancer Centre Gynaecology Oncology MDT Standard Operating Procedure at the YCN Gynaecology meeting. The document specifies that if a major resection is carried out at the Centre the report and representative sample would go back to the referring Unit.

Upper GI

No change since the last meeting.

- **Pathology Minimum Datasets proformas update.**

Dr DaCosta highlighted that no progress has been made since the last meeting.

The gynaecological and rarer pulmonary hepatic proforma's are on the website. The skin and urology proformas are still to go on the website.

Dr DaCosta highlighted that the proformas are to be used as a tool: most departments already incorporate the information from the Royal College Minimum Dataset.

- **Workforce Issues**

Dr Andrew highlighted that a post has been advertised at York which has generated much interest.

Dr Anathhanam explained that there is no change at Mid Yorkshire.

Dr Thomas highlighted that at Calderdale and Huddersfield two pathologists will start in March, there will then be a total of six pathologists.

Dr DaCosta confirmed that the Airedale post will be re-advertised and hopes for more interest. Bradford has advertised recently, vacancies still exist.

Dr DaCosta highlighted that nationally there are 200 plus vacancies, the SpR output has increased slightly per annum.

- **Communication centre and unit about changes of diagnosis**

Dr DaCosta confirmed that the Centre Review Processes for MDT Meetings was circulated with the last set of minutes, the same principles apply across the Network.

4. YCN Uro-histopathology meeting update

Mr Tinkler highlighted that the Specialist Teams for Urology have been agreed as Mid Yorkshire, Leeds and Bradford.

Mr Tinkler confirmed that it is considered feasible to implement the main elements of this guidance during the next two to three years. It is considered desirable to avoid attempting to secure the funding for these changes at the same time as the Cookridge Wing being commissioned, hence the plan to bring forward implementation as far as possible. Completion of the process by 2006/2007 is projected.

Mr Tinkler highlighted that an Uro-histopathology meeting was held on Monday 1st December 2003 with representatives from all histopathology departments across the Network apart from Harrogate. The purpose of the meeting was to begin to explore the key issues and requirements in the development of a histopathology service to support urological cancer Improving Outcomes Guidance.

The notes from the meeting were tabled.

The outcomes of the meeting were:

- to limit centralisation and develop Network pathology resource.
- to encourage team development especially the diagnostic team.

- to explore sharing sessions between the 3 specialist teams.
- to further explore a role of advanced Biomedical Scientist practitioners
- to develop the role and functions of MDT's both diagnostic and specialist ensuring consistency of approach
- pilot EQA scheme for prostate

Dr Harnden has secured funding from the Department of Health to run the EQA scheme for prostate. Pathologists have been selected randomly to develop the scheme. Once the pilot is working well the relevant funding could be used for a national scheme in England.

Mr Tinkler has had a further meeting with Dr Harnden and Workforce Development Confederation colleagues to discuss how the biomedical practitioner issue can be progressed.

Dr DaCosta informed the group of the QA pilot scheme and confirmed that the material used in the pilot scheme was available for interest and education to pathologists in the YCN.

5. Peer Review (not on agenda)

Mr Tinkler highlighted that nationally the Peer Review programme and appraisal has been agreed. Peer Review will be carried out in five sub-national zones. A liaison group has been established between the Networks in that Zone and the Peer Review Team.

The reviews will be conducted against a set of standards which are expected to be published during the next 12 months, starting with draft cancer standards which are expected at the end of January for brief consultation and finalised at the end of March. There will then be a minimum lead time of six months between the publication of the standards and the start of Peer Review.

Mr Tinkler highlighted that a computer system has been established for Peer Review. A training programme will be provided for this system.

Mr Tinkler explained that as the Upper GI Standards were published at the end of 2003, the Cancer Lead Managers and Upper GI group agreed to carry out a self-assessment exercise against the Upper GI Standards, which proved to be a very useful exercise.

An Upper GI Audit and Standards meeting will take place on 10th February to discuss the achievement of Upper GI Standards that are relevant to the Network Site Specific Group. The meeting will discuss audit, clinical guidelines and referral pathways, data sets and data collection. From this the group will produce a work programme.

Mr Tinkler confirmed that the Network will hold a series of Network wide Peer Review meetings once more information has been received.

Action: Miss Lamb to circulate the structure of Peer Review Zones.

6. Liquid Based Cytology

A letter regarding Liquid Based Cytology and the Cervical Screening Service from Mr Tinkler was tabled for information.

Mr Tinkler highlighted that a Yorkshire Cancer Network Screening Leads meeting was held on Monday 3rd November which included Dr Faulkner, Regional Director NHS Cervical Screening Programme North East, Yorkshire and Humber in anticipation of the NICE Guidance for Liquid Based Cytology.

As a consequence of the meeting Dr Faulkner organised two meetings on 5th and 8th January 2004 to address issues of concern for laboratories and training schools, covering cervical screening laboratories, government officers, SHA's, cancer networks, PCT's and colposcopy.

The recommendations from the Quality Assurance Reference Centre (QARC) meeting were that QARC would prepare a job description and person specification for a project manager, each Strategic

Health Authority (SHA) agreed to organise an implementation group. Mr Tinkler and Ms Stephenson, YCN Project Manager will be on the group to enable a consistent approach.

Mr Tinkler attended the meeting on 5th January with SHA Lead's. Mr Tinkler confirmed that he will be leading on LBC on behalf of West Yorkshire SHA.

As a consequence Mr Tinkler has written to a large number of people to arrange a preliminary meeting to discuss and agree an implementation group to take forward the key workstream.

Mr Tinkler asked the group to take this information back to colleagues and ask for nominations for the implementation group.

Action: All to circulate letter to colleagues.

All to ask for nominations for implementation group and forward contacts to Miss Lamb.

7. Pathology Modernisation

Dr DaCosta highlighted that the Pathology Modernisation Guidance has not yet been published but it is imminent.

Mr Tinkler informed the group that he has been asked to lead on Pathology Modernisation on behalf of West Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority.

8. Any Other Business

- **EQA Schemes**

Dr DaCosta informed the group of the Breast Cancer core biopsy EQA pilot scheme. A Cervical Biopsy EQA pilot scheme is proposed, which will also be available on CD ROM.

- **Pelican Training.**

Dr DaCosta informed the group of the Pelican Training Centre in Basingstoke for Colorectal Cancer. Mr Tinkler highlighted that the YCN was the first network to take part in the roll out of the pelican training programme. There is little new in terms of pathology, since the standards in Yorkshire are already very high.

Dr DaCosta confirmed that Pelican are assisting and funding the purchase of digital cameras for departments to provide feedback on good surgical technique.

- **SLONE Report**

Dr Lane informed the group of the SLONE Project – a detailed audit of the pathology, management and outcomes of screen detected DCIS. Following a meeting of those involved in February, it was hoped to update pathologists about the requirements of the project.

Action: Dr Lane to forward information from meeting to Miss Lamb to circulate to the group.

9. Date of next meeting

**Wednesday 30th June 2004, 9.30am
Arthington House Conference Suite, Cookridge Hospital**