

Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16th April 2024

There were two subjects on the agenda.

1. Cancer Pathway
2. Routine Immunisation

Cancer Pathway

1. Detection rate for cancer in Worcestershire was 60% as compared to the England average of 54.1%.
2. Around 38% cases of cancer are preventable and the things people can do reduce the risk of developing cancer is by not smoking, maintaining healthy weight and reducing alcohol intake and being more active.
3. Various agencies are working to improve uptake in cervical and bowel screening programmes.
4. Optimising the use of Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) in primary care to identify patients at risk of having colorectal cancer.
5. Commissioning of JOY app to link people with local cancer prevention services.
6. EARLIER DIAGNOSIS – Roll out of non-specific symptoms across the county to provide access to rapid clinical assessment and diagnostics for patients with a range of vague symptoms associated with potential cancer.
7. Targeted lung health checks.
8. Roll out tele-dermatology for assessment of suspicious skin lesions.

Screening

Cancer screening programme for women (aged 25-64 years) – 77.6%
(national 74.4%)

Bowel cancer screening – age 54-70 years – 74.9% (national 72%)

Breast screening – 50 to 71 years – 70.3% (national 66.2%)

Concerns

- Challenges in dermatology services due to resignation and retirement having an impact on waiting times
- Urology services are under strain and business case has been approved for newer appointments.

Routine Immunisation

1. Evidence suggests that the level of confidence is high in Worcestershire, although the tendency in the country shows a downward trend.

Vaccine hesitancy refers to those who delay or refuse immunisation despite good vaccination services. There are certain groups who are at risk of lower uptake who include some ethnicities, homeless individuals, those with physical disabilities.

2. Cases of Measles went high during January 23 to December 23 in the UK, mostly in London and West Midlands. We didn't have any cases.

3. MMR Vaccine uptake in the country is going down (83%) but Worcestershire has the highest uptake at 90%.

4. MMR pop-up clinics were set up in Malvern, Evesham, Redditch, Kidderminster and Wythall.

Cllr Bakul Kumar
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