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Working Together Pathology Services Group develop digital plans

Plans are underway to revolutionise histopathology in the region, as the Working Together Programme explores the potential for moving to a digital solution.

Histopathology is the study of diseased tissue, for example, breast lumps or specimens of bowel removed because of suspected cancer, including examination under the microscope – in England 13 million slices of tissue are examined by histopathologists every year. Across the UK there are significant challenges in the histopathology profession, including increased demand and an ageing workforce.

Providing a digital solution across the Working Together footprint is one of the innovative options being put forward by the recently formed Working Together pathology services group.

A digital histopathology platform enables the electronic transfer of digital imagery, replacing the need for the traditional transportation of slides. A single Trust moving to digital histopathology from slides could see a range of benefits however, in a networked approach, such as that supported by the Working Together Partnership, the benefits of the digital approach are significant, including the ability to create a better integrated network of specialist diagnostic teams, standardised quality across the region, the opportunity to distribute workload more evenly, thus potentially providing patients with reduced waiting times and improved access to specialist advice.



Next Steps for the 5 Year Forward View

Nationally the Five Year Forward View Delivery Plan was published last month. It is the latest update to the NHS Five Year Forward View, which was originally published in 2014 to outline the current and future challenges facing the NHS and to provide a shared view of what needs to change to address the challenges. Vanguards, including the Working Together Partnership Vanguard, were established in 2015 to be one of the first steps towards delivering the Five

A digital histopathology project, EASY Path, is currently taking place between Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals Trust, whereby specialists in Sheffield can remotely report cases from Hull. EASY Path is demonstrating the benefits of using digital histopathology to enable a specialist networked approach and collaboration, and helping shape the Working Together pathology services group's thinking.

As part of the wider collaboration across pathology services that the Working Together pathology group are enabling, referral education and support to ensure optimum referral pathway usage and workforce planning across the region are also being explored and will be key features in a developing Working Together pathology workplan shared by the Trusts.

Branko Perunovic, Clinical Director of Laboratory Medicine at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, who is leading on the project, said "Working as part of a wider regional group is presenting us with fantastic opportunities to join up existing skills and resources across the region and transform the way in which services are delivered. Our vision is to develop a new and sustainable model of histopathology service based on collaboration and future-proof equitable access to specialist histopathology for all patients in the region."

Year Forward View.

In recognition of the strong relationships that exist in South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, not only between NHS providers as a result of the vanguard, but also across other NHS and local authority partners, as well as some local success in working together to improve health and care for our population, the 2017 Five Year Forward View Delivery Plan lists South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw as a candidate likely to become an Accountable Care System.

The full national document can be read [here](https://www.england.nhs.uk/five-year-forward-view/):
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/five-year-forward-view/>

Guaranteed 24/7 access to nephrostomy care thanks to Working Together

Patients across South and Mid Yorkshire will now have guaranteed access to nephrostomy care 24/7 thanks to arrangements established through the Working Together interventional radiology project, working with urology teams.

Working Together celebrates two years of the Vanguard programme with a look back over last year's achievements

April this year marks the second anniversary of the national Vanguard Programme. In recognition of this the Programme and Medical Directors for the Working Together Partnership published an online reflection of the past year for our vanguard.

The article reflects on the fact that having taken time to build an inclusive and engaging approach, the partnership is now in a strong position, and has seen some real tangible examples of successful initiatives taking shape

Working Together contributes to new national Best Practice Toolkit

The Working Together Partnership Vanguard has been referenced as a partner in a new toolkit that has been developed by the Moorfields Vanguard programme.

Moorfields have developed the toolkit to provide best practice, evidenced-based learning and Practical advice, guidance and frameworks for those looking at establishing an acute care collaboration.

The Working Together Partnership Vanguard met with Moorfields in the summer in 2016 to share our learnings

Pathways for out of hours nephrostomy care have now been put in place across 2 regional hubs (one covering Barnsley and Mid Yorks; and one covering Doncaster and Rotherham). This means there is now guaranteed 24/7 nephrostomy cover for patients in all of these areas

this year.

In addition to listing some of the successes of the past year, with some details, the article also reflects on how the emergence of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) has impacted on the programme, and indeed Working Together's impact on the local STP.

Read the full article here:

<http://workingtogethernhs.co.uk/reflections-201617-acute-care-collaboration-vanguard/>

from working as an acute care collaboration, and the information taken from the meeting has contributed to the development of Moorfields' toolkit.

The toolkit can be found here:

www.networkedcaretoolkit.org.uk

To Note: From 12 June the Working Together Partnership Vanguard PMO will have moved to 722 Prince of Wales Rd, Darnall, Sheffield. Phone numbers and email addresses for some of the team will change. The new main number will be: 0114 305 4487. Please make a note of any changes to email addresses and direct dial numbers from team members' personal email footers. Most of the team's email addresses will remain the same.

In the last newsletter we stated that the decision about Hyper Acute Stroke Services and Children's Surgery and Anaesthesia would be made at the Joint Committee of CCGs meeting on 24 May. Due to the General Election this decision will now happen at the Joint Committee of CCGs meeting on 28 June.

For more information about the Working Together Partnership contact

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