

Supplementary written evidence submitted by Jane Lyons, Cancer52 (CSV0060)

Dear Chair

Many thanks for inviting Cancer52 to give evidence at the Health and Social Care Select Committee on cancer services last week. I wanted to follow up on a few points.

As you heard from Katy last week, people with a rare and less common cancer often have a difficult and lengthy experience getting a diagnosis and then subsequently finding appropriate help and support as they undergo treatment and recovery. We also know that many initiatives are begun in the more common cancers first and that there is a paucity of data on rare and less common cancers.

Consequently, Cancer52 believes that there needs to be:

- A Rare and Less Common Cancer Taskforce convened by NHS England to provide a focus for Rare and Less Common Cancers until at least 2028 and someone within each Cancer Alliance with specific responsibility for Rare and Less Common Cancers. This is needed to make as much progress as possible to meet the NHS Long Term Plan target of 75% of cancers diagnosed at an early stage and to save more lives. As you heard last week, initiatives tend to begin in the more common cancers first, which means rare and less common cancers get left behind.
- Full disaggregation of published cancer data for all cancer types.
- Ongoing investment by DHSC and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in regular awareness campaigns for signs and symptoms of rare and less common cancers and establishment of an annual tracker to measure public awareness and attitudes to cancer.
- The recommendations of NHS England's Task and Finish Group on Psychosocial Support implemented in full.

If useful, we could provide a diagram showing the overlap between lung cancer, the less survivable cancers and rare and less common cancers in terms of mortality and incidence, if that would be helpful.

Finally, Cancer52 and our 104 cancer charity members are willing to help in any way we can with reducing the backlog and meeting the ambitions set out in the NHS Long Term Plan; please do let us know if there is anything else more information the Committee would find helpful.

We look forward to reading the Committee's Report in the New Year.

Best wishes

Jane

Jane Lyons CEO

Cancer52

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