

# Cancer Screening update: Nov 2015

## Briefing prepared with co-operation from NHS

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### Chiltern and NHS Aylesbury Vale CCGs

#### Headlines figures for cancer mortality and survival

England currently lags behind European averages for 1<sup>st</sup> year cancer survival rates. Part of the national agenda is to close this gap. NHS England at the start of 2015 announced a new independent taskforce to develop a five-year action plan for cancer services to improve survival rates. It also launched a new programme to test innovative ways of diagnosing cancer more quickly at more than 60 sites across the country. More than one in three people in the UK develop cancer and half will now live for at least ten years – forty years ago the average survival was just one year. However for some cancers patients are being diagnosed late so that some survival rates are below the European average.

The Independent Cancer Taskforce has published [Achieving world-class cancer outcomes: a strategy for England 2015-2020](#). This report sets out recommendations for a new cancer strategy for England. One of the key outcomes is to:

**Drive a national ambition to achieve earlier diagnosis:** This will require a shift towards faster and less restrictive investigative testing, quickly responding to patients who present with symptoms, by ruling out cancer or other serious disease. It recommends ‘setting an ambition that by 2020, 95% of patients referred for testing by a GP are definitively diagnosed with cancer, or cancer is excluded, and the result communicated to the patient, within four weeks. Delivering this will require a significant increase in diagnostic capacity, giving GPs direct access to key investigative tests, and the testing of new models which could reduce the burden and expectation on GPs’

#### What’s the picture locally?

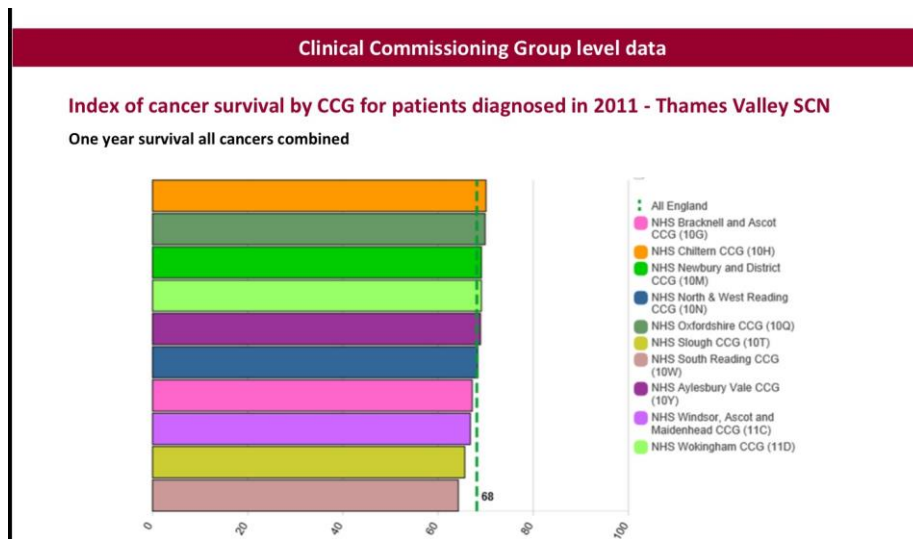
##### NHS Aylesbury Vale CCG

- There are 276 cancer deaths per 100,000 people each year. This is similar to the England average
- One-year cancer survival is 69%. This is similar to the England average of 68%.
- Five-year cancer survival is 50%. The England average is 48%.

##### NHS Chiltern CCG

- There are 252 cancer deaths per 100,000 people each year. This is lower than the England average
- One-year cancer survival is 70%. This is better than the England average of 68%.
- Five-year cancer survival is 50%. The England average is 48%

Looking at survival rates across the Thames Valley region, Chiltern is slightly above average and Aylesbury Vale is in line in line with the average.

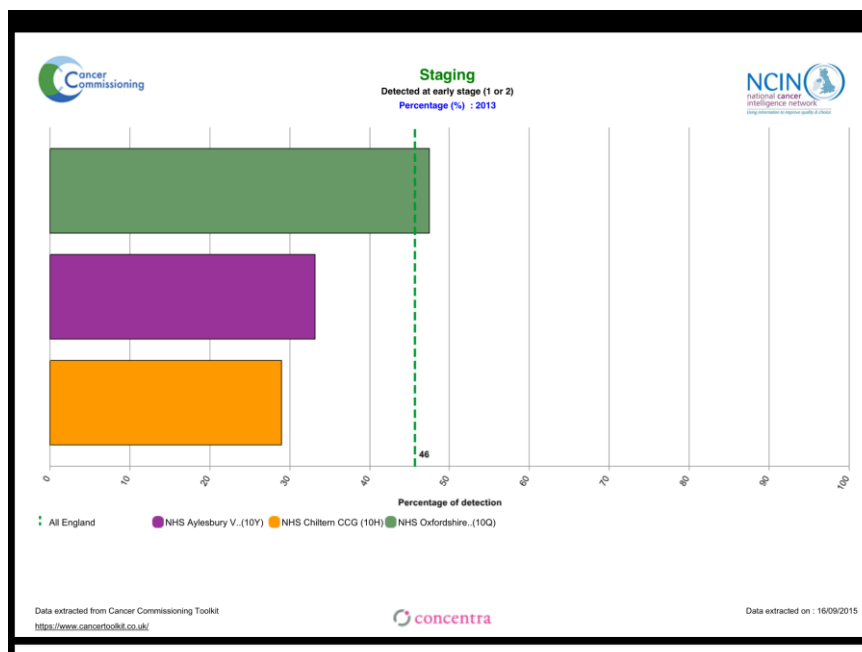


### Cancer Screening and Staging

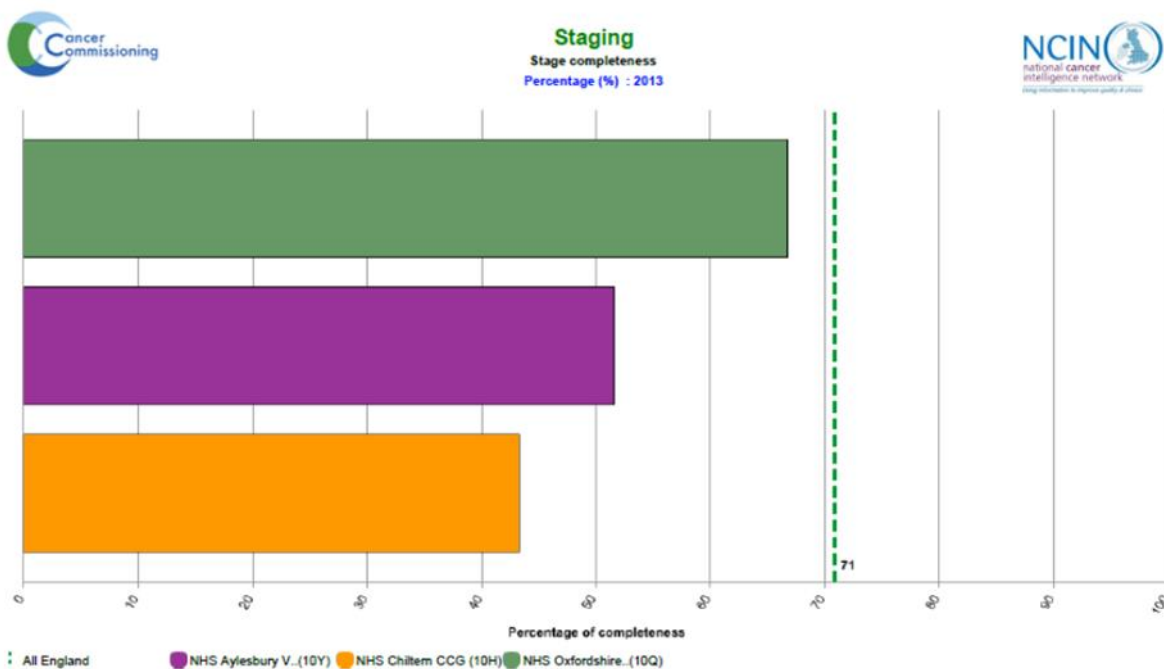
Current data from the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) suggests Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale CCG's perform poorly in cancers diagnosed at an early clinical stage.

The chart below displays the percentage of new cases of cancer which were diagnosed at stage 1 or 2 for: invasive malignancies of breast, prostate, colorectal, lung, bladder, kidney, ovary, uterus, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and invasive melanomas of skin. Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale CCG's are below the England and Oxfordshire CCG percentages.

'The Atlas of Variation' states that 'the data must be interpreted with some caution because the denominator includes all cancers, irrespective of whether they are staged.'



In addition data from Cancer Research UK also suggests staging data should be interpreted with caution and may be a reflection of stage recorded in less cases than other CCGs. There is a separate measure which looks at the rate of recording of stage of cancer at the time of diagnosis. For this, AVCCG recorded 31.4% in 2012 and 51.6% in 2013; CCCG recorded 23.6% in 2012 and 43.2% in 2013; and nationally 59.4% in 2012 and 70.8% in 2013. (see table below) This means that Buckinghamshire CCGs are recording approximately one third less stages of treatment upon diagnosis that the national average, which is artificially depressing the first indicator. Some assurance over the actual performance around cancer in Buckinghamshire can be taken from the outcome data around one and five year survival rate, where one year rates are above the England average. Both Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale CCG's will have to investigate why the recording of stage of the disease is so far below the national average and what is being done to improve this, as it appears this is the key to revealing the actual performance around stage at diagnosis.



### **Draft Cancer Strategy -key statistics informing future improvements**

- Survival is known to be poorer in patients diagnosed through ED (emergency department)
- 19.3% of patients in NHS Chiltern CCG and 18.4% of patients in NHS Aylesbury Vale CCG are diagnosed with cancer through ED. This is lower than the English average (23.7%).
- A Thames Valley wide audit has been commissioned to understand cancer diagnoses through ED (see also section 5).

The Cancer strategy group is focussing on Prevention, Education, Reducing inequality gap, Increasing early case finding, Improved patient flow, Provider capacity, Improved access to diagnostics, Improving first year survival, Improve patient experience and QOL, Improving cancer after care/psychological support, Improved patient communication and tracking, Learning organisation

Actions to date are as follows:

- GPs and trusts made aware of cancer priority
- GP education programme (several sessions presented in 2015)
- Improving bowel cancer screening project (underway)
- Macmillan GP cancer facilitator - funding applied for and approved Nov 2015
- Rapid diagnosis through tele-dermatology service (service spec being constructed)
- Ensure providers record stage of all cancers at diagnosis (been requested through contracts)

- Advice and guidance (active)
- Cancer pathways and forms immediately accessible in GP desktops using DxS software (active)
- Support and resources around early diagnosis of cancer has been offered to all Chiltern practices by the local CRUK Primary Care Facilitator. To date 27 Chiltern practices have taken advantage of this offer and have received a visit from the facilitator and a have been given a pack containing many useful resources to improve early diagnosis. 22 practices additionally also took part in the recent audit of emergency presentations and have developed action plans based on their learnings that came out of doing their audits.
  - Audit of cancers diagnosed upon emergency presentation - 22 practices took part and each completed 1-3 Significant Event Audits on cases of cancer diagnosed in an emergency setting. Learnings and actions will be disseminated to all Chiltern practices late 2015/early 2016
- Request that providers offer smoking/weight/exercise advice (requested through right care)