Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for cancer policy in England
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 30th April 2026
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER HEALTH FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Priorities for cancer diagnosis, treatment and care - assessing the role of the *National Cancer Plan* in addressing challenges and strengthening delivery**
Professor Mark Lawler, Professor, Digital Health and Chair, Translational Cancer Genomics, Queen's University Belfast

9.15 **Evolving cancer pathways - survivorship, earlier diagnosis, and developing the role of patients**
Eve Byrne, Director, National System Change, Macmillan Cancer Support

9.25 **Priorities for prevention, early diagnosis, and screening**
strategies for strengthening public awareness and community engagement | the role of school and workplace health promotion | community-level programmes for high-risk groups | public health, including restrictions on HFSS food volume promotions | access to screening | reducing inequalities and improving access for hard-to-reach groups | implementing Jess's rule and developing workforce education | addressing pressures in primary care | use of genomics in inherited conditions | alignment with women and men's health strategies | assessing priority groups for screening and expansion of newborn screening | the UK National Screening Committee's consultation on prostate cancer screening | practical implementation of the Faster Diagnosis Standard | use of AI-enabled triage in early diagnosis pathways
Professor Rakesh Heer, Chair, Urology, Imperial College London
Dr Anup Shah, Clinical Director, Primary Care in Potters Bar; and Co-Director, Hertsmere Neighbourhood, Central East ICB
Greg Fell, President, Association of Directors of Public Health; and Director, Public Health for Sheffield
Senior representative, diagnostics

9.45 Questions and comments from the floor

10.10 **Learning from approaches to cancer care pathways outside England**
Senior representative, international

10.20 **Assessing the way forward for system reform, neighbourhood care, and workforce transformation**
assessing commitments set out in the National Cancer Plan and NHS 10 Year Health Plan | oversight and accountability arrangements | cross-departmental coordination | staffing and capacity for interpreting test results | use of the NHS App in improving follow-up pathways | the role of community diagnostic hubs | digital alternatives and managing risk of exclusion for patients | budget allocation within integrated care systems | mitigating disruption during transition | the future role and structure of cancer alliances | retaining and upskilling clinical staff | improving IT infrastructure and interoperability for clinicians | delivery of holistic needs assessments and personalised care plans | supporting patient access to care, including travel to and from services
Susan Sinclair, Managing Director, RM Partners West London Cancer Alliance
Dr Nicky Thorp, Vice President, Clinical Oncology, The Royal College of Radiologists
Laura Lee, Chief Executive, Maggie's
Senior representative, digital
Senior representative, child health

10.45 Questions and comments from the floor

11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.15 Break

11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.30 **Assessing innovative cancer diagnostics, supporting equitable access for patients, and guiding adoption through real-world evidence**
Dr Sarah Byron, Programme Director, HealthTech Strategy and Development, NICE
Questions and comments from the floor

11.55 **Research, clinical trials and personalised treatment - priorities for innovation, AI, and equitable access**
criteria for selecting patients for genomic testing | funding models for personalised vaccines | equity in eligibility decisions | structures for faster ethical and contract approval | incentives for non-commercial and rare cancer trials | governance of AI-driven analysis | the role of the Health Data Research Service | assessing regulatory changes for clinical trials and personalised medicines | improving access to innovation | assessing variation in adoption | expanding vaccine trials through the NHS Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad | priorities for the Children and Young People Cancer Taskforce, including rarer cancers and age-specific needs
Gary McAllister, Chief Technology Officer, Healthcare and Public Sector, Dell Technologies
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, NHS
Senior representative, genomics
Questions and comments from the floor

12.40 **Next steps for delivering the *National Cancer Plan***
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor

13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum