Westminster Health Forum policy conference:
Next steps for cancer research and genomics in England
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 7th January 2027
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER HEALTH FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP

9.05 **Assessing latest developments in cancer policy and research - implementation, capacity and considerations for the next phase**
Professor Clare Turnbull, Professor, Cancer Genetics, Institute of Cancer Research; and Honorary Consultant, Clinical Cancer Genetics, The Royal Marsden
Questions and comments from the floor

9.25 **Patient priorities for cancer research, genomic testing and personalised care**
Richard Stephens, Chair, Cancer Research Advocates Forum

9.35 **Advancing research and innovation in prevention, early detection and multi-cancer screening**
emerging approaches to earlier diagnosis | multi-cancer early detection tests, liquid biopsy, blood, breath and urine diagnostics, and AI-supported interpretation | lessons from the NHS-Galleri Trial | clinical utility, cost-effectiveness and evidence thresholds for adoption | priorities and coordination across NIHR, the NHS Cancer Programme and OLS | integration into screening and referral pathways | diagnostic and pathology capacity | impact on primary care and neighbourhood-based care | variation in access and uptake across communities | overdiagnosis, false reassurance and informed consent
Prof Alastair Greystoke, Professor of Precision Oncology; and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology, Newcastle University
Dr Angela George, Clinical Director, Genomics and Consultant Medical Oncologist, Gynaecology, The Royal Marsden
Professor Sarah Coupland, President, The Royal College of Pathologists
Stefan Palimaka, Director, International Market Access, UK, Ireland, and Canada, Natera
Anna Wykes, Programme Manager, Cancer Innovations, Wessex Academic Health Science Network

10.00 Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Next steps for genomics across the cancer pathway - consistency, access and clinical application**
Dr Nirupa Murugaesu, Cancer Clinical Director, South East Genomic Medicine Service and Principal Clinician for Cancer Genomics, Genomics England
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Dr Scott Arthur MP

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Charlie Maynard MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Less Survivable Cancers

11.10 **Implementation of genomics in cancer care - NHS Genomic Medicine Service delivery, routine testing and personalised insights**
Professor Dame Sue Hill, Chief Scientific Officer, England, NHS England
Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Data and digital infrastructure for cancer research and personalised care - access, governance and public trust**
Senior representative, data

11.45 **Clinical trials, rare cancer research and access to new treatment**
new UK clinical trials regulations and streamlining of regulatory processes | Cancer Trials Accelerator Programme implementation and national standards | trial-ready infrastructure, high-throughput testing sites and specialist workforce requirements | NHS research capacity and protecting non-commercial and academic studies | decentralised and community-based trial delivery | addressing barriers to participation for underserved groups | participation in trials for rare cancers, children and young people | the Rare Cancers Act 2026 and arrangements for identifying and contacting potential trial participants | personalised mRNA vaccines, cell and gene therapies | evidence generation for molecular and genomic therapies | interaction between MHRA authorisation, NICE appraisal and NHS commissioning | national leadership and priority-setting for rare cancers
Cameron Miller, Vice Chair, Less Survivable Cancers Taskforce; and Director, External Affairs and Strategy, The Brain Tumour Charity
Professor Kamaraj Karunanithi, Director, NIHR North Midlands CRDC; and Consultant, Clinical Haematology and Lead, Myeloma and Plasma Cell Disorders, University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust
Professor Chris Jacobs, Associate Professor, Genetic and Genomic Counselling and Interim Associate Head, Research and Innovation, School of Health Sciences, University of Surrey
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, research

12.10 Questions and comments from the floor

12.35 **Next steps for regulatory frameworks for personalised therapies and pathways to innovative treatment adoption**
Julian Beach, Interim Executive Director, Healthcare Quality and Access, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

13.00 **Chair's and Westminster Health Forum closing remarks**
Charlie Maynard MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Less Survivable Cancers
Jessica Lear, Westminster Health Forum