

## **Briefing note to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Gynaecological Cancer Services**

At the JHOSC meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Committee requested a written update on the outcome of the audit which was due to be carried out on the pathways for gynaecological cancer patients, and an update on how the issue of patient record access and transfers was being addressed. An update was requested from the Greater Midlands Cancer Network, and the following response was received.

“To update on the Gynaecological Cancer changes, we are now treating patients in accordance with the plans presented previously to the JHOSC. There have been, as expected, a small number but some have had their operations in Wolverhampton and some in Stoke. This is going well and we have not encountered any difficulties. Of course, any radiotherapy or chemotherapy is being delivered locally in Shrewsbury as we had previously planned.

The patients’ experience survey is in the detailed planning stage and the user groups have been most helpful in the design. We are using this opportunity to undertake it as a piece of research in order that we can rely fully on the results and that we can transfer any learning from it to other areas where we may need to undertake changes in pathways. It is turning out to be a really interesting useful piece of work. We feel it’s important to address this in a way that protects possibly vulnerable patients. We are seeking ethical approval and expect to start collecting information before the end of the year, by then we should have a significant number of patients to seek feedback from.

The Somerset system is in place in all our network trusts and is capable of sharing patient information. All Trusts enter data on cancer waiting times, diagnostics carried out and any treatments/MDT decisions that are made. All Trusts have remote access to each other’s Somerset System and are able to access this information electronically. Furthermore as the surgeons are present at the team meeting they are very familiar with each patients’ case.”

Tricia Lowe  
Director  
Greater Midlands Cancer Network