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| A close-up of a logo  Description automatically generated**Meeting name:** | Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance |
| **Agenda item no.** |  |
| **Meeting date:** | 19 May 2025 |
| **HCSR Pillar Alignment:** | Outpatient Transformation |
| **Report title:** | Dermatology Provision to the Oldham Locality |
| **Report presented by:** | Nicola Hepburn, ICB Recovery and Improvement Programme Director |
| **Report approved by:** | Jennifer Gammack, Programme Director, Sustainable Services Programme |
| **Report prepared by:** | Jennifer Gammack, Programme Director, Sustainable Services Programme / Elaine Hodkinson, Programme Director, GM/NCA Dermatology Transformation Programme / Susan Sawbridge, Programme Manager |

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| **Purpose and Action** | | | |
| Assurance | Decision  (approve/ recommend/ support/ ratify) | Action  (review/ consider/ comment/ discuss/ escalate) | Information |
| **Executive summary and points for discussion:** | | | |
| This paper provides an update on Dermatology provision to the Oldham locality which was highlighted as a risk at the last GM Cancer Alliance Board meeting due to the provider signaling that they would be closing to new referrals for suspected cancer and general Dermatology. The report provides an update against and advises of the actions that have been taken to mitigate the risk of a provision for Dermatology not being in place within the Oldham locality. | | | |
| **Recommendation(s)** | | | |
| The Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance Board is asked to receive the update in relation to the Dermatology provision within the Oldham Locality which includes activity for suspected Cancer.  The Board is reminded of the escalation at the previous meeting that HCRG who deliver both the community dermatology and suspected cancer/secondary-care activity in Oldham, have confirmed their plans to exit the market at the end of bridging arrangements (30/09/2025) and that they would close their doors to new patient referrals from 21/03/2025, subsequently revised to 18/04/2025.  The report outlines the key actions that have taken place to maintain patient safety but in summary:   * + this decision/action was challenged by NHS GM, but the decision was confirmed as remaining by HCRG Board of Directors.   + NHS GM Chief Officers supported actions to include a new provider being identified to ensure patient safety and continuity of care.   + Colleagues including from the ICB, Locality, GM Cancer Alliance have worked in collaboration to identify a solution which is currently been progressed.   + A new provider called HealthHarmonie has been identified and has worked with NHS GM to mobilise service provision at pace. It has been possible to ensure that there was no gap in service provision with the new provider opening to new referrals on 18/04/2025.   + NHS GM Chief Officers have agreed that the governance approvals will follow at the first opportunity and relevant documents including PSR, STAR, service specification, contract etc are being expedited. The Service Specification was presented to GM CPAS on 23/04/2025 with a recommendation for approval to GM CEG on 22/05/2025.   + The risk score will remain at 25 but actions to reduce this have already commenced and this will be reviewed and revised once the service embeds and outstanding actions are concluded. | | | |
| **Equality Impact Assessment** | | | |
| In development | | | |
| **Involving people and communities** | | | |
| Ongoing input from the Assistant Director of Engagement, NHS Greater Manchester. No formal patient consultation undertaken/required to date. | | | |
| **Governance of Paper** | | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Forum Title** | **Date** | **Outcome** | |  |  |  | | | | |
| To be ratified by the Trust Provider Collaborative Chief Executive Officers | | | |
| **Appendices** | | | |
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| **Acronyms and Abbreviations explained:** | | | |
| AI Artificial Intelligence  CAG Clinical Advisory Group  CEG Clinical Effectiveness and Governance Committee  CPAS Clinical Policies, Audit and Standards Group  GM Greater Manchester  HCSRPB Health and Care Service Review Programme Board  ICB Integrated Care Board  NCA Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust  PSR Provider Selection Regime  PSR DMR Provider Selection Regime Decision Making Record  SBS Shared Business Services  SCR Suspected Cancer Referral  SPoA Single Point of Access  STAR System for Thorough Assessment of Resources  Telederm Teledermatology  TPC Trust Provider Collaborative | | | |

**Dermatology Provision to the Oldham Locality**

A verbal update was provided to the previous meeting of the Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance Board members, advising that HCRG who deliver both community dermatology and suspected cancer/secondary-care activity in Oldham, have confirmed their plans to exit the market at the end of bridging arrangements (30/09/2025). HCRG then advised that they would close both elements of the service to new referrals from 21/03/2025, which was challenged by NHS GM and deferred to 18/04/2025 and again was being challenged by NHS GM. As a result of this the Health and Care Service Review Programme Board members, which oversees the Dermatology Transformation programme supported the immediate uplift of Risk DE14 to a score of 25 (Likelihood 5, Impact 5).

Since the last Board NHS GM Sustainable Services, the GM Transformation Programme Team, Oldham Locality, GM Cancer Alliance, NHS GM corporate teams including Procurement, Contracting and Finance have worked in collaboration and the following key actions/mitigations have occurred:

* Following further escalation to HCRG Board of Directors confirmation was received of their intention to maintain service closure to new patient referrals (suspected cancer, secondary care and community dermatology) effective 18/04/25. Communication is ongoing with HCRG in relation to this decision. HCRG will continue to support the bridging request as part of the GM Community Service procurement arrangements for existing patients under treatment and on their waiting lists until 30/09/2025.
* NHS GM Chief Officers have supported a proposal that a new provider be sourced to ensure patient safety and continuity of service provision for the Oldham Locality for new patient referrals. The governance approvals to follow at the soonest opportunity aligned to the dates of relevant GM committees.
* The Northern Care Alliance (NCA) as future Lead Provider have confirmed their inability at the current time to take the SCRs and secondary-care referrals due to their own resilience issues and the fact that they continue to support the Tameside Locality provision. In the longer term 12-18 months NCA anticipate being in a position to support the Oldham Locality.
* Following direction from the GM Procurement Head of Market Management the additional service provision for new referrals will be progressed as an urgent direct-award due to clinical safety. A Provider Selection Regime Decision Making Record has been prepared and is progressing through governance.
* A Service Specification has been developed for the secondary-care and suspected cancer referral provision. This specification was presented to GM CPAS on 23/04/2025 and will be recommended by this group to GM CEG for approval on 22/05/2025.
* A new provider has been identified and following due diligence colleagues above are working in collaboration with this provider to agree and deploy new service provision at pace. A robust and comprehensive implementation plan is supporting this and it has been possible to mobilise a service with no gap in service provision for Oldham Locality referrers and patients with the service open and accepting referrals from 18/04/2025. Comms have been sent to Oldham Locality referrers. The first clinic for suspected cancer referrals is planned for 25/04/2025 and the first general dermatology clinic for the 06/05/2025.
* To support this the deployment of the SPoA software for the Oldham Locality has been accelerated and this went live on 23/04/2025.
* The new provider has confirmed their support for involvement in the NHSE Skin Analytics Teledermatology AI Pilot and discussions are planned to agree a go-live date.
* The key elements of the agreement with the new provider (Health Harmonie) are:
  + Provision of a service to the Oldham Locality for new patient referrals from 18/04/2025
  + Provision of Community Dermatology services in line with bridging arrangements until 30/09/2025. This will be against the future GM Community Dermatology Service Specification, ie the current PSR competitive tender, which has previously been approved by GM CPAS and GM CEG.
  + Provision of a Secondary-Care service, including Suspected Cancer Referrals for a period of 18 months. This will be against a newly developed Service Specification and will include Tier 4 services outlined in the previously shared Table of Conditions. A six month notice period will be applicable to both parties, which will support an earlier exit should this be required in line with the Lead Provider timelines.
  + Provision of a Local Skin MDT, but initially this will be supported by an existing GM Provider, most likely Manchester University NHS FT, whilst this is mobilised. The provider expects to have their own Local MDT established around 01/06/2025.
* This Risk DE14 remains at the current score (25), but it is expected that this will reduce as the service embeds and outstanding actions are concluded through the various GM committees.

**Summary**

The GM Cancer Alliance Board members are asked to support/note the updates outlined.

* Board is reminded of the escalation last month that HCRG who deliver both the community dermatology and suspected cancer/secondary-care activity in Oldham, have confirmed their plans to exit the market at the end of bridging arrangements (30/09/2025) and that they would close their doors to new patient referrals from 21/03/2025, subsequently revised to 18/04/2025. Section 6 of this report outlines the key actions that have taken place to maintain patient safety but in summary:
  + this decision/action was challenged by NHS GM, but the decision was confirmed as remaining by HCRG Board of Directors.
  + NHS GM Chief Officers supported actions to include a new provider being identified to ensure patient safety and continuity of care.
  + Colleagues including from the ICB, Locality, GM Cancer Alliance have worked in collaboration to identify a solution which is currently been progressed.
  + A new provider called HealthHarmonie has been identified and has worked with NHS GM to mobilise service provision at pace. It has been possible to ensure that there was no gap in service provision with the new provider opening to new referrals on 18/04/2025.
  + NHS GM Chief Officers have agreed that the governance approvals will follow at the first opportunity and relevant documents including PSR, STAR, service specification, contract etc are being expedited. The Service Specification was presented to GM CPAS on 23/04/2025 with a recommendation for approval to GM CEG on 22/05/2025.
  + The risk score will remain at 25 but actions to reduce this have already commenced and this will be reviewed and revised once the service embeds and outstanding actions are concluded.

**Appendix 1 – Dermatology Risk DE14**

