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Sent by email to: chrisbryne@healthwatchworcesterhire.co.uk

22 September 2025

Dear Chris,

RE: Healthwatch Worcestershire Positional Statement on Prostate Cancer and PSA Testing

Thank you for your letter dated 7th August 2025 regarding the report issued by Healthwatch Worcestershire (HWW) on prostate cancer and PSA testing in Worcestershire. Given the content of the report and recommendations outlined, we felt it would be helpful for you to attend the ICS Urology Forum meeting on 4th September 2025, a system wide group with clinical representation from both primary and secondary care focusing on improving and developing Urology services across the ICS.

At the meeting you helpfully presented an overview of the report and the 3 recommendations made, which were to:

1. Move the discussion on to focusing on groups at a higher risk of developing prostate cancer
2. Simplify the messaging to men
3. Incentivise primary care around case-finding and increase mpMRI capacity in secondary care.

As this area of work sits firmly in the ICB's Earlier Cancer Diagnosis work programme, the Forum was provided with an update on the overarching work programme to increase the percentage of stage I/II cancer diagnoses, and any specific work being undertaken in prostate cancer at both a regional and local level. At a regional level, work being undertaken includes:

- The establishment of a Regional Task and Finish group specifically focusing on raising awareness across the West Midlands of Prostate Cancer risk in black men to

increase early diagnosis and reduce late-stage diagnosis. Phase one has commenced with auditing current challenges and experiences related to diagnosis

- The development of a regional toolkit with clinical guidance for primary care, myth-busting information, culturally sensitive tips and addressing mistrust
- The development of best practice in primary care in identifying high risk patients and tracking uptake by ethnicity and age
- Supporting greater engagement with local community leaders to build trust and promote awareness of prostate cancer risk factors e.g. ethnicity, family history
- Case-finding pilots being conducted in Birmingham and Solihull and Birmingham Black Country ICBs.

Locally, there are also a number of projects being undertaken to support earlier diagnosis of cancer, including prostate cancer, such as:

- Public Health review of local prostate cancer data. This showed earlier diagnosis of prostate cancer is performing in line with national average with no obvious underserved population sub-group needing to be targeted
- Auditing the quality of Urgent Suspected Cancer (USC) prostate referrals at Wye Valley Hospitals NHS Trust to support improvements in referral processes
- Development of a wider ICB Communications plan focusing on earlier diagnosis, with designated sections for prostate cancer
- Submission of health inequality funding bids to support training of Cancer Champions in prison settings and Community Connectors for seasonal/agricultural workers focusing on screening and earlier diagnosis
- Development of Early Cancer Diagnosis website - [Cancer Information Hub :: Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System](#).

Many of the above initiatives will support the recommendations outlined in the report around targeting of higher risk men and simplifying the messaging to men around PSA testing. As a result of the discussion at the meeting, it was however agreed that some further actions would be taken to support delivery of the recommendations outlined in the report including:

- *Request for the West Midlands Cancer Alliance to consider the current West Sussex Cancer Alliance consensus statement on PSA testing for prostate cancer ([WCA-Consensus-Statement-on-PSA-Testing-for-Prostate-Cancer-2025.pdf](#)) and to develop a similar statement through the Regional Urology Expert Advisory Group for the West Midlands.*

This is due to be discussed at next EAG meeting and will support consistent messaging to primary care and patients on PSA testing particularly in relation to asymptomatic men and those in higher risk groups;

- *Development of additional resources to support targeting of higher risk groups.*

Since the meeting Mr Christian Nayar, Consultant Urologist has agreed to support development of a short video outlining who is at a higher risk and signs / symptoms of prostate cancer. An outline of the text for the video has been shared and we welcome HWW input into this to ensure alignment of communication with the public

- *Working closely with HWW through the existing Prostate Support Groups in Worcestershire to ensure patient input into the development of resources and communication material.*

You have now kindly identified an individual to be involved and we will work with him to increase the number of prostate cancers being diagnosed earlier.

There are also a number of national conversations key to the work being undertaken that are expected to be held over the coming months, including a parliamentary debate on PSA screening to review the evidence for a population screening programme and one targeting specific higher risk groups, the outcome of which is expected to go out for consultation before the end of this calendar year. We will continue to monitor the outcome of these national debates and make any changes to local guidance as necessary.

Thank you for taking the time to attend the ICS Urology Forum and I hope you found it useful to discuss in person with key stakeholders from across the system. If you would like to attend the Forum in future for an update, please do not hesitate to contact [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,



Simon Trickett
Chief Executive
NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB