

Transforming Cancer Care in Cheshire and Merseyside

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An independent review of cancer care across the region concluded that big benefits could be gained for patients and their families by expanding the services provided by The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

What are the proposals?

The proposals would see Clatterbridge Cancer Centre services expanded with the building of a new cancer centre for Cheshire and Merseyside next to the new Royal Liverpool University Hospital.

Inpatient services will move from Wirral to the Liverpool site and additional outpatient services will also be provided.

Only those Wirral based patients, who need more complex treatment, or an overnight hospital stay, will need to travel to the new centre in Liverpool.

Outpatient radiotherapy and chemotherapy for the more common cancers - such as breast or prostate - will continue to be provided at the Wirral site. The UK's only proton beam therapy service will also remain at the Wirral site.

The new centre in Liverpool means that Cheshire and Merseyside cancer patients will have access on one site to expert surgery, inpatient care, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, critical care, outpatient clinics and enhanced research and development with clinical trials.

Who responded?

We reached approximately **90,000** people; with **14,000** people accessing the Action on Cancer trailer and a total of **4,164** responses returned.

96 visits were made to **53** unique groups across Cheshire and Merseyside to speak to patients and members of the public.

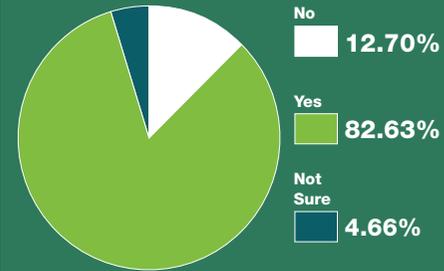


What they told us

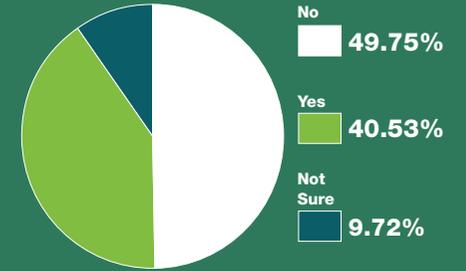
“Having heard about the proposals do you think they are a good idea?”

Responses broken down by Postcode Area

ALL POSTCODES



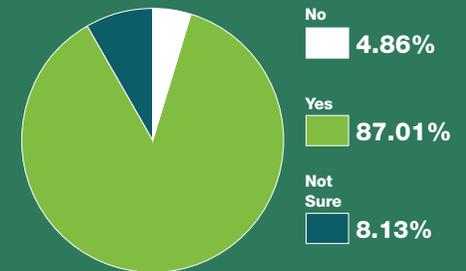
CH includes Wirral, Flintshire, Cheshire West and Chester



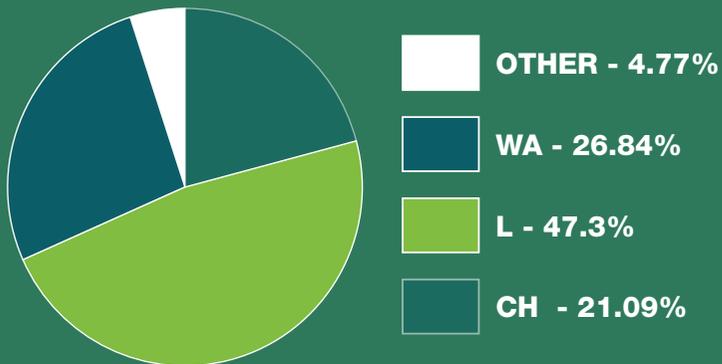
L includes Liverpool, Sefton (including PR8 and PR9 postcodes) and Knowsley



WA Warrington, Widnes, Runcorn and St Helens



Analysis of the questionnaires returned showed that respondents came from the following postcode areas:



The themes identified were:

- Travel
- Accessibility
- Expense
- Good Cancer Services
- Ill health
- Fear of loss of services

Travel

Travel is a key emerging theme. The majority of comments relating to travel came from respondents in support of the proposals and reflect the opinion that the existing Cancer Centre is 'too far' from where they live and the new centre will be beneficial in terms of distance, time and money saved.

"My family have been affected by cancer and the travel to Clatterbridge took a lot out of them when they were unwell. It was too far."

Costs, parking and tunnel were also key words mentioned by South Mersey residents in relation to travelling to the new centre in Liverpool, many stated that they were happy with the current service provision at The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre.

Accessibility

The accessibility theme covers issues of transport and travel but also includes references to the availability of public and private transport, parking and congestion.

In general, those people who don't think the proposals are a good idea felt that the new centre would reduce

accessibility for them. They consider The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre Wirral to be accessible as it is close to the motorway and that Liverpool would be inaccessible due to parking and congestion.

"Clatterbridge should stay as main hospital. It has the space for development. The Royal is congested by area and accessibility."

Those respondents in support of the plans felt that accessibility would be improved because of the transport infrastructure in Liverpool.

"I live in Wallasey but I am sure it would be easier for me to use public transport to get to Liverpool rather than Clatterbridge."



Expense

The majority of the references to expense were in respect of the additional costs of travel, such as parking, taxis and tunnel fares.

"A lot of cancer patients are quite elderly and cannot travel to Clatterbridge and cannot afford taxis."

Comments on cost were balanced. Liverpool postcode residents considered it to be positive as they would save money on tunnel fares. Other 'yes' voters believed that a better transport infrastructure would reduce the amount of taxi journeys required to the new site.

Good Cancer Services

Many respondents spoke of the existing excellent cancer services and a preference to keep services in Clatterbridge.

"No problems with CCC so why change?"

Respondents also acknowledged the benefits of the re-location and the establishment of a new cancer centre, linked to state-of-the-art cancer research and treatment facilities.



Ill Health

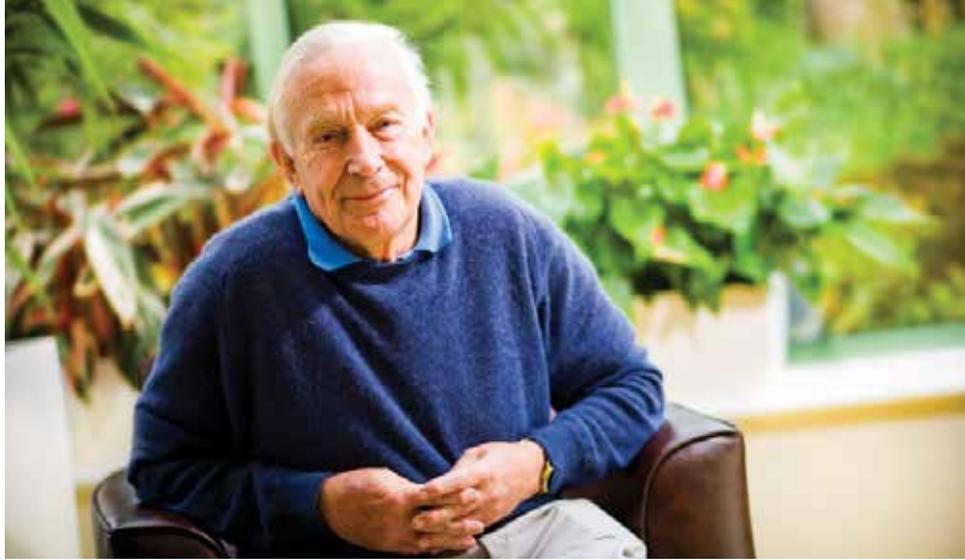
Respondents who have had personal experience of cancer treatment reported on the difficulties of travelling when feeling unwell.

"A new centre will provide easier access for patients at a time when they would prefer to be nearer to home. Travelling can be stressful especially when someone is ill."

Fear of loss of services

The loss of services was a concern for a particular minority of voters. In some cases people felt that the proposals might lead to the ultimate closure of services and loss of jobs at Clatterbridge.

"Provided the service currently available at the existing Clatterbridge site is not diminished in any way then the new proposal is an excellent idea otherwise not so."



Getting your feedback

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre need to get the views of patients, families and the wider public if we are to develop services that fully meet your needs.

To learn what you think about the proposals we used a variety of different ways to give people the opportunity to share their views with us.

From August 2012 to March 2013 members of the public attended events, completed an online survey or visited our customised 'Action on Cancer Trailer' which we took to busy shopping centres across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Thank you if you gave us your views during this initial consultation period.

Voting boxes were also placed in hospitals and a variety of community venues, cancer support groups and charities across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Our staff spoke to members of the public about the proposals, distributed information leaflets and showed a short DVD before asking people:

"Having heard about the proposals do you think they are a good idea?"



What happens next?

We plan to launch a formal 12 week consultation period in the Spring/ Summer of 2014 which will enable us to explore the main themes you have identified in more detail.

Feedback will be used to develop more detailed proposals for the centre for submission in the Autumn of 2014.

For details of how you can get involved in the formal consultation keep your eye on the local press or visit www.actiononcancer.org.uk

The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre want to make sure that everyone in Cheshire and Merseyside can access the right cancer services, at the right time and in the right place.

We thank everyone who has taken the trouble to get involved so far. Your comments will be invaluable as we continue to plan and develop our new cancer services for the next 25 years.

The full feedback report and analysis document is available to view at www.clatterbridgecc.nhs.uk