

## Background

The Scottish Cancer Network (SCN) currently manages, supports and governs five national cancer networks as a collective – Scottish Adult Neuro-Oncology Network (SANON), Scottish HepatoPancreatoBiliary Network (SHPBN), Scottish Mesothelioma Network, Scottish Thyroid Cancer Network (STCN), Scottish Sarcoma Network (SSN)

- Networks are ideally suited to delivering service re-design, quality improvement, strategy and planning across pathways, working across boundaries of departments, teams, units, sectors, agencies and boards;
- They also have the potential both to inform and to help deliver the kind of prioritisation needed to ensure value in a context of strict financial limitations, increasing patient demand and rising public expectations.

### The Scottish Government Cancer Strategy 2023-33 states:

The Scottish Cancer Network (SCN) will be at the heart of our strategic ambitions. The SCN will also host national networks, where national integration and collaboration for specific cancers can make best use of expert resources and improve outcomes for people with cancer. It will drive ‘Once for Scotland’ work, where appropriate, and work closely with regional networks where work is better delivered at that level.



## Aims

Since May 2022, alignment of the five national cancer networks under SCN has increased opportunities to support the Cancer Strategy strategic aims:

- Expert pathological and molecular diagnosis.
- Improved survival outcomes – common characteristic of the medical pathway of patients with rare cancers is misdiagnosis or late diagnosis.
- Regularly updated clinical practice guidelines
- Improved communication between patients, advocacy groups, GP’s and clinicians
- The need to improve the availability and exchange of scientific and medical information, clinical expertise, and clinical trials



## Benefits from aligning networks

- Collaborative approach - connecting lead clinicians to solve issues and/or deliver improvement and fair and equitable access to treatment options for patients across Scotland
- Increased influence to drive national improvement



## Successes 2023/24

- Single paediatric pathway thyroid cancer pathway
- National MDT guidelines for thyroid
- Clinical Management Pathways (CMPs) for adult neuro-oncology supportive care, including general supportive care, neuropsychology and neurorehabilitation on right decision service
- Scottish Care Co-Ordination Service for HPB cancers (SCOT-HPB) formerly known as the Pancreatic and Hepatocellular Cancer Pathway Improvement Programme (PHCC PIP)
- Patient Selection Criteria for Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy (SABR) development by consensus
- National clinical management guidelines for mesothelioma
- National clinical management guidelines for thyroid cancer
- Thyroid Cancer Genomics workstream
- Network input into the third formal review of Brain/CNS QPIs
- Collaborative working with Scottish Strategic Network for Genomic Medicine (SSNGM)
- SHPBN nurse quarterly forum and national SHPBN study day



## Coming up in 2024/25

- Clinical management guidelines for sarcoma
- National Forum for Scottish Sarcoma Network nurses and AHPs
- Neoadjuvant pancreatic cyst pathway
- Publication of National Network Impact Analysis research - outcomes from mesothelioma network since launch (2019 – present) including survival analysis
- Launch of new thyroid cancer QPIs

## Method

### Common themes:



Service improvement



Teamworking and workforce support



Digital and innovation



Communication and engagement



QI and data intelligence



Governance



Education and training

### Governance:

- Each of the five networks has a steering group which reports into the SCN Steering Group, specialist subgroups and shortlife working groups
- Terms of reference in place for each network clearly setting out key ambitions
- Milestones regularly reviewed at performance review meetings

### Collaborative working:

- National network clinical leads meetings
- Nurse/AHP Forums
- Partnership working with third sector: Brain Tumour Charity, British Liver Trust, Pancreatic Cancer UK, Sarcoma UK, Mesothelioma UK, Butterfly Thyroid Cancer Trust, Maggie’s, Macmillan Cancer Support

### Communication and engagement:

- Websites for each of the five national cancer networks
- Regular newsletters
- Quality improvement and data intelligence
- SCN reports on all national network quality performance indicators
- National MDT proformas for data collection and audit mesothelioma, thyroid and sarcoma

### Education and training:

- National morbidity and mortality reviews
- Bi annual education events for all five networks
- Quarterly Nurse/AHP forums