

Cllr Ken Wyatt
Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board
Riverside House
Main Street
Rotherham
S60 1AE

Clifton Centre, 110 Clifton Street,
London EC2A 4HT
Switchboard 020 7749 3700
Supporter Care Team 020 7749 4114
Fax 020 7749 3701
Web breastcancercampaign.org

13 March 2014

Dear Cllr Wyatt,

I wanted to let you know about a new report published by Breast Cancer Campaign, *Finding the cures, improving the care*. This report explores how more effective monitoring of performance against the NICE *Breast cancer quality standard* (BCQS) could be used to drive improvements in the standard of care for women with breast cancer, and includes recommendations that apply to Health and Wellbeing Boards.

About the report

Around 50,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, and each of them deserves the best possible care. The NICE *Breast cancer quality standard* sets out markers of high quality, cost-effective patient care in the NHS in England, however this important tool could be used more effectively. There are no formal mechanisms in place to monitor and report on the performance of services against the standard, and no way to comprehensively assess the impact it is having on driving improvements.

To highlight opportunities to address this information gap we considered data from the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey, and found that it can provide useful insights into whether people are being offered a written assessment and care plan; discussions of care by a multidisciplinary team; and meaningful access to a clinical nurse specialist.

The report finds that a lack of comprehensive data collection and reporting could undermine the potential of the BCQS to drive improvements in these key areas, and it makes 16 recommendations to address this problem.

How you can help

As you'll see in the report, there are a number of recommendations that might be of particular interest to you. For example, the report recommends that Health and Wellbeing Boards should take into account the findings from the peer review process during the development of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and consider whether there are opportunities to introduce incentives for local trusts to ensure patients with recurrent or secondary breast cancer have their care discussed by a multidisciplinary team.

We would welcome your thoughts on the report and your experience of the *Breast cancer quality standard*, as well as any further ideas you have in relation to implementing the standard. Also, if

your Health and Wellbeing Board is taking action specifically for women with recurrent or secondary breast cancer, for example through your JSNA, we would be keen to hear the details of this, and to discuss actions you can take to ensure compliance with the BCQS in your area. You can contact me on 0207 749 3729, or at jbrady@breastcancercampaign.org.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Brady', written in a cursive style.

Josephine Brady
Public Affairs and Policy Officer