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Dear CCG Accountable Officer and Clinical Lead,

2017/18 Clinical Commissioning Group assessments for cancer and maternity

We are writing to you about assessments that have been undertaken by independent panels for cancer and maternity for your CCG, and would like to start by thanking you for all your work making improvements in these vital areas of care.

The assessments are based on the relevant clinical indicators used in the overall CCG IAF for cancer and maternity, and are in addition to the headline assessment of your CCG for 2017/18 that was published in July. They provide a snapshot of how your performance on cancer and maternity compares with other CCGs, and, where relevant, whether you are meeting national ambitions.

Annex A sets out the assessment for your CCG in each of the two clinical priority areas for 2017/18. Each CCG is provided with one of four ratings, described as: 'outstanding'; 'good'; 'requires improvement'; and, 'inadequate'.

CCGs' scores for the **individual indicators** that contribute to each assessment are available in **Annex A** and on the MyNHS section of the NHS Choices website. This information should help to identify where CCGs might be able to learn from each other and drive overall improvement, particularly within the wider footprint of Cancer Alliances and Local Maternity Systems. Results will also be used to inform the support offered to CCGs, Cancer Alliances and Local Maternity Systems by the national programmes. For further information on improvement support, please visit the clinical priority area pages on the NHS England [website](#).

The independent cancer and maternity panels have each prepared commentaries on the 2017/18 ratings, which provide an overview on progress since the previous assessment and highlight areas for improvement. The commentaries will also be available on the NHS England website on 16 August.

The methodology used by the panels to derive the assessments can be found at **Annex B**.

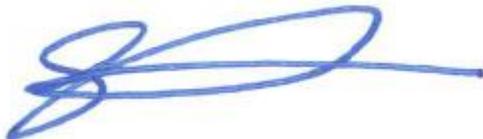
The 2017/18 cancer and maternity ratings for your CCG should not be released by the CCG until they are published on **16 August 2018** on the NHS England website and subsequently on MyNHS.

We look forward to continuing working with you to improve outcomes at such critical times in people's lives.

Yours sincerely,



Cally Palmer,
National Cancer Director, NHS England



Sarah-Jane Marsh,
Chair, NHS England Maternity Transformation Programme

ANNEX A: 2017/18 assessment ratings and indicator values for cancer and maternity

NHS Darlington CCG	
<u>Clinical priority area</u>	<u>Headline rating 2017/18</u>
Cancer	Good
Maternity	Good

The results for the individual indicators for your CCG are provided below.

<u>Cancer indicator</u>	<u>Indicator value</u>
Cancers diagnosed at early stage	53.8%
People with urgent GP referral having definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of treatment	85.8%
One-year survival from all cancers	68.5
Cancer patient experience	8.6 out of 10

<u>Maternity indicator</u>	<u>Indicator value</u>
Stillbirth & neonatal mortality rate	3.5 per 1,000 births
Women's experience of maternity services	92.1 out of 100
Choices in maternity services	67.1 out of 100
Rate of maternal smoking at delivery	16.2%

ANNEX B: Methodologies for cancer and maternity assessments 2017/18

Cancer

The overall rating for cancer is based on four indicators; early diagnosis, 62 day waits for treatment after referral, one year survival and overall patient experience. The four cancer metrics have been chosen based on the key priorities agreed by the Cancer Transformation Board, led by Cally Palmer, National Cancer Director for England, and charged with implementing the NHS Cancer Strategy for England.

For each CCG, each of the four cancer indicators was given a score derived using a statistical control limit approach, with limits set at 2 standard deviations (equivalent to a 95% confidence level). The banding method and benchmark used to assign a score are shown in table 1. Queries from CCGs regarding their cancer indicator scores should be directed to their regional contacts.

Table 1. Cancer indicator banding method

Indicator (Latest time period used)	Indicator scores	Benchmark
Cancers diagnosed at early stage (2016)	Significantly below the national benchmark = 0 Below the national benchmark but not significantly = 0.75 Above the national benchmark but not significantly = 1.25 Significantly above the national benchmark = 2	National trajectory to national ambition (53.5%)
People with urgent GP referral having definitive treatment for cancer within 62 days of treatment (2017/18)	Significantly below the national standard = 0 Below the national standard but not significantly = 0.75 Above the national standard but not significantly = 1.25 Significantly higher than the national standard = 2	National Standard (85%)
One-year survival from all cancers (2015)	Significantly below the national benchmark = 0 Below the national benchmark but not significantly = 0.75 Above the national benchmark but not significantly = 1.25 Significantly above the national benchmark = 2	National trajectory to national ambition (72.4)
Cancer patient experience (2016)	Significantly below the national benchmark = 0 Not significantly above or below the national benchmark = 1. Significantly above the national benchmark = 2	2015 National mean (8.74)

To note: The one-year survival indicator is case-mix adjusted to account for differences in the demographic profile of CCG populations. At present the early stage diagnosis indicator is not case-mix adjusted, however adjustment of scores for the relative incidence of different cancer types may be explored for future years. The cancer patient experience indicator is the average score (on a scale of 0 to 10), and includes a case mix adjustment that provides a fairer comparison between CCGs.

The mean score for the four indicators was calculated. The thresholds shown in table 2 were used by the independent cancer panel to derive the rating for each CCG.

Table 2. Cancer assessment thresholds

Rating	Score range
Outstanding	Above or equal to 1.3
Good	Above or equal to 0.7 and below 1.3
Requires Improvement	Above or equal to 0.3 and below 0.7
Inadequate	Below 0.3

Maternity

The overall rating for maternity is based on four indicators;

- Stillbirth and neonatal mortality rate,
- Women's experience of maternity services,
- Choices in maternity services and
- Rate of maternal smoking at delivery.

The four maternity metrics were chosen to align with a number of themes from [Better Births](#), the report of the National Maternity Review, and to provide a broad representation of the various aspects of the maternity pathway.

For each CCG, each of the four maternity indicators was given a score derived using a statistical control limit approach, with limits set at 2 standard deviations (equivalent to a 95% confidence level). The banding method and benchmark¹ used to assign a score are shown in table 3. Queries from CCGs regarding their maternity indicator scores should be directed to their regional contacts.

¹ Where available, a national trajectory to an established ambition was used as the benchmark, this is the case for the rate of maternal smoking at delivery. Alternatively, the national mean from the baseline period or subsequent period has been used as the benchmark where comparable in order to incorporate an assessment of overall change in national performance. This has been applied for the stillbirth and neonatal mortality indicator, however it is not possible to apply this approach to the women's experience and choices in maternity services indicators as the constituent questions included in the composite indicators have changed. The national mean from the current year is therefore used to benchmark these two indicators,

Table 3. Maternity indicator banding method

Indicator (time period)	Indicator scores	Benchmark
Stillbirth & Neonatal Mortality Rate (2016)	Significantly above the national benchmark = 0 Not significantly above or below the national benchmark = 1. Significantly below the national benchmark = 2	2015 National mean (4.8 per 1000 births)
Women's experience of maternity services (2017)	Significantly below the national benchmark = 0 Not significantly above or below the national benchmark = 1. Significantly above the national benchmark = 2	2017 National mean (83.0 out of 100)
Choices in maternity services (2017)	Significantly below the national benchmark = 0 Not significantly above or below the national benchmark = 1. Significantly above the national benchmark = 2	2017 National mean (60.8 out of 100)
Rate of maternal smoking at delivery (2017-18 Q1 – Q3)	Significantly above the national trajectory = 0 Above the national trajectory but not significantly = 0.75 Below the national trajectory but not significantly = 1.25 Significantly below than the national standard = 2	National trajectory to national ambition (9.7%)

The mean score for the four indicators described above was calculated. The thresholds shown in table 4 were used by the independent maternity panel to derive the rating for each CCG.

Table 4. Maternity assessment thresholds

Rating	Score range
Outstanding	Above or equal to 1.3125
Good	Above or equal to 1.0625 and below 1.3125
Requires Improvement	Above or equal to 0.5625 and below 1.0625
Inadequate	Below 0.5625