

Gateway reference: 7858

February 2007



Dear Colleague,

PROGRESS ON THE CANCER REFORM STRATEGY

I am writing to let you know about the progress we are making on the strategy for the reform of cancer services in England.

You may remember that last November, the Secretary of State asked me to develop a cancer reform strategy. We are now working on a strategy that will take account of:

- New opportunities and challenges related to cancer, such as rising incidence and people living longer with cancer as well as advances in new technology and drugs
- Changes in the NHS since the Cancer Plan was published in 2000, such as shifting services from hospital to the community
- The Healthcare Reform Agenda including better patient choice, stronger commissioning of cancer services, improved quality of services and better value for money.

There is a great deal of work to be done in developing the strategy and this is already well in hand. I attach a press notice announcing the membership of a new advisory board of experts who will provide advice and help develop the strategy.

The press notice also gives details of six new working groups who will develop specific work areas and report their findings to the advisory board.

We are also calling on the expertise of a number of existing groups and advisory boards and I estimate that there will be well over 250 experts contributing to the development of the strategy.

We aim to publish the strategy by the end of the year.

Best wishes

Professor Mike Richards
National Cancer Director