

3CCN press release 24 December 2007

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3 Counties Cancer Network**Press Release following Board Meeting on 21st December 2007**

The 3 Counties Cancer Network Board met this afternoon to discuss the next steps towards expansion of radiotherapy service for the population of the Network.

Radiotherapy services for the Network are currently sited at Cheltenham General Hospital. Some patients are travelling over two hours each way for their treatment. The Network has been considering over the last two years whether it is feasible to develop a linked radiotherapy unit to reduce the burden of travel for patients. Apart from the issue of access, other important factors being considered include the safety of a linked service and the additional cost of a linked development.

Three options have been put forward:

- Continue expansion at the Gloucestershire Oncology Centre in Cheltenham
- Develop services at Hereford County Hospital
- Develop services at Worcestershire Royal Hospital

After discussion with the hospital Trusts and Primary Care Trusts, the Network now plans to consult publicly on all three options to determine its priorities early in the New Year following discussion with Health and Overview Scrutiny Committees of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire.

Following consultation it is expected that a final decision about the siting of the sixth radiotherapy machine would be made in the spring 2008. This machine will become operational in 2010.

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Further Information:

For further information, please contact:

Nicola Strother Smith
Network Director
3 Counties Cancer Network
The Chapel
St Paul's Medical Centre
Swindon Road
Cheltenham
GL50 4DP

t: 01242 215047 f: 01242 215456

e mail: nicola.strother-smith@glos.nhs.uk

w: the3ccancernet.org.uk