

# HELP US TACKLE CANCER IN MAIDSTONE AND THE WEALD

This data refers to:

CCG: NHS West Kent

Local Authority (LA): Maidstone

NHS Trust: Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

Cancer Alliance: Kent and Medway

We have chosen data most relevant to your constituency.  
The following CCG(s) cover your area: NHS West Kent



Compared to average: Better Similar Worse

Measures are referred to as 'similar' when the difference from the average is not statistically significant.

We have used a selection of data to demonstrate a snapshot of information for your area.

## Preventing more cancers

Four in 10 cancer cases in the UK could be prevented. **Smoking** is the largest single preventable cause of cancer in the UK, linked to an estimated 19% of cancer cases each year.

**Excess bodyweight** is the second largest preventable cause of cancer in the UK, linked to an estimated 5% of cancer cases each year. Obese children are around five times more likely to be obese adults.



Smoking



The percentage of adults smoking cigarettes in this LA (13.2%) is similar to the England average (16.9%).

**ACTION:** Write to your LA and ask if they are providing a specialist Stop Smoking Service and how they are supporting smokers to quit.



Childhood obesity



The percentage of children in Year 6 who are overweight or obese in this LA (31.5%) is similar to the England average (33.2%).

**ACTION:** Write to the Public Health Minister asking her to protect children by extending restrictions on junk food advertising.

## Screening

The UK has three screening programmes for cancer (bowel, breast and cervical). Screening for these cancers remains one of the best ways to diagnose cancer earlier.



Bowel screening



Bowel screening coverage (the proportion of eligible people who have been screened successfully) among 60-69 year olds in this CCG (61.4%) is higher than the England average (57.9%).

**ACTION:** Ask your CCG how it is planning to improve this figure further.

## Routes to diagnosis

The two-week wait to see a specialist following an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer supports the early diagnosis of cancer.



Urgent GP referral



**TARGET: 93% (being met nationally)**  
The percentage of patients seen by a specialist within two weeks of an urgent GP referral for suspected cancer in this CCG (91.6%) is lower than the England average (94.1%).

**ACTION:** Ask your Trust or CCG how it is planning to improve cancer waiting times.



Emergency presentation



The percentage of patients diagnosed through emergency routes in this CCG (17%) is lower than the England average (20.1%).

**ACTION:** Ask your CCG how it is planning to reduce this figure further.

Turn over for more stats about cancer for Maidstone and The Weald



Feb 2017

LET'S BEAT CANCER SOONER  
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CANCER  
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UK

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## Stage at diagnosis

Early diagnosis of cancer gives patients more effective treatment options and improves their chance of surviving the disease. Reducing the number of patients diagnosed at a late stage is crucial. Action along the diagnostic pathway is required to spot cancer early and treat it quickly.

### Stage at diagnosis



The percentage of staged cancers that are diagnosed early (at stage 1 and 2) in this CCG (55.9%) is similar to the England average (54.3%).

**ACTION:** Ask your CCG what they are planning to do to ensure more patients will get diagnosed at an earlier stage.

## Waiting times

Cancer waiting times exist to promote swift diagnosis and prompt treatment for patients, so missing the 62 day wait target is unacceptable. Alliances have recently applied for transformation funding, this should be used to improve cancer waiting times. **Workforce is an important element of this (see below).**

### POLICY PRIORITY Referral to treatment



**TARGET: 85% (NOT being met nationally)**  The percentage of patients receiving their first cancer treatment within 62 days of an urgent GP referral in this CCG (80.9%) is similar to the England average (82.4%).

**ACTION:** Ask your Trust or CCG how it is planning to improve cancer waiting times, including improving capacity to carry out diagnostic tests.

Variation in access to appropriate treatment contributes to UK cancer outcomes lagging behind other comparable countries. Radiotherapy is one type of treatment a cancer patient could receive.

### Wait for radiotherapy\*



**TARGET: 94% (being met nationally)** The percentage of patients receiving radiotherapy within 31 days of first treatment in this CCG (95.6%) is lower than the England average (97.5%).

**ACTION:** Ask your Trust or CCG what they are doing to improve access to radiotherapy and plan for the future.

## What is needed to deliver world-class cancer services?

### Data

Cancer Research UK's work monitoring NHS services is only possible because of data that is routinely collected by the NHS as part of patient care.

**ACTION:** Ask the Department of Health how they will support the health and social care data system, so that data can be used in research and care.

### POLICY PRIORITY Workforce

We will not be able to improve cancer outcomes in England without sufficient numbers of staff equipped with the right skills. Workforce shortages in your area may be impacting on cancer services.

**ACTION:** Contact your local education and training board and ask how they are going to address key shortages in the cancer workforce. Health Education England should publish their national review in March 2017.

### Participation in research



Research is crucial to advance our understanding of how to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

The percentage of cancer patients who said that taking part in research had been discussed with them at this Trust (23.7%) is lower than the England average (28.3%).

**ACTION:** Ask your NHS Trust what their plans are to ensure more people are informed about research opportunities at your Trust and others.

For more information please contact [publicaffairs@cancer.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@cancer.org.uk) or 020 3469 5536.

Data used in this profile and their sources can be found at [cruk.org/localstats](http://cruk.org/localstats). Data marked with an asterisk (\*) are not currently published on our website, please contact [localstats@cancer.org.uk](mailto:localstats@cancer.org.uk) for more information on these.

## CANCER RESEARCH UK IN MAIDSTONE AND THE WEALD



There are Cancer Research UK charity shops all across the UK – [cruk.org/shops](http://cruk.org/shops)  
Your nearest shop is in Maidstone. Contact us for more details.



### Cancer Research UK Ambassadors

Across the UK we have dedicated volunteer Cancer Campaigns Ambassadors who are passionate about improving the lives of cancer patients and their families in your constituency. Contact us to find out if you have an ambassador in your area.

[cruk.org/ambassadors](http://cruk.org/ambassadors)



CANCER RESEARCH UK  
RACE FOR LIFE

You have a Race for Life event happening in your area in 2017. Contact us for more details.



### Cancer Research UK Facilitator Programme

To help drive improvement in cancer prevention and diagnosis, Cancer Research UK has facilitators working with health professionals in your area. Contact us for more details.