

The Need for National Cancer Plans

The NHS Cancer Plan for England

Professor Mike Richards

National Cancer Director

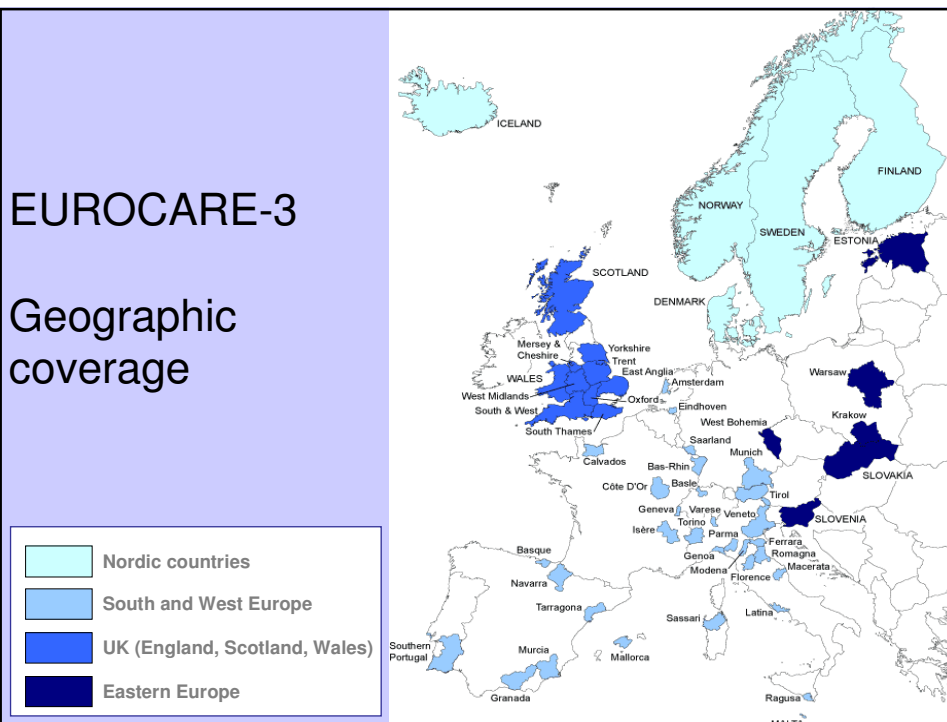
Slovenia, November 2006

Overview

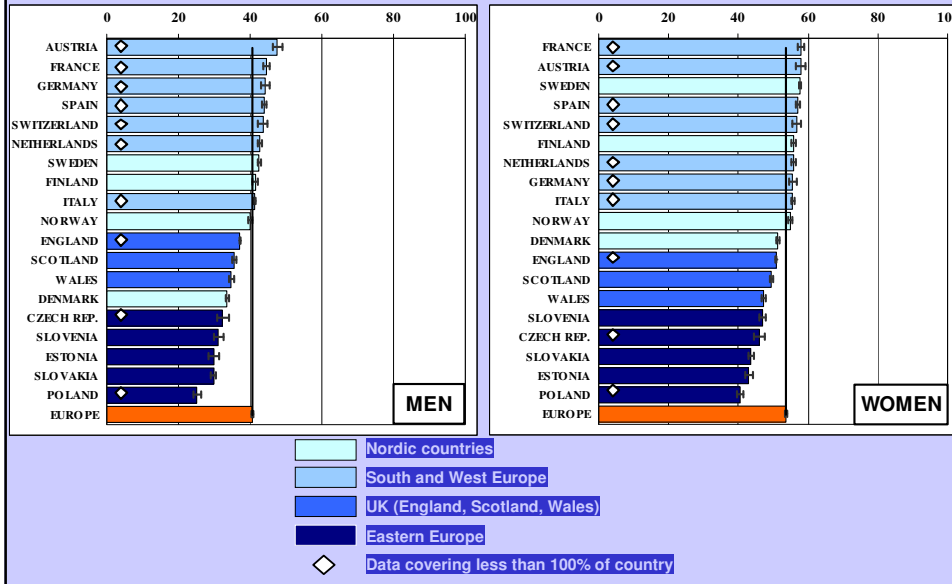
- ❖ **The Problem of Cancer in England in the 1990s**
- ❖ **Developing the momentum for change**
- ❖ **Agreeing what needs to be done**
- ❖ **Making change happen**
- ❖ **Monitoring progress**
- ❖ **Keeping abreast of developments in science and society**

The Problem of Cancer in England in the 1990s

- ❖ High incidence/mortality
- ❖ Poor survival rates compared with Western Europe (EUROCARE)
- ❖ Inequalities (geographical and by social class)
- ❖ Underfunding (staff and facilities)
- ❖ Long waits
- ❖ Fragmentation of services



All-cancers five-year survival index (%)
 Patients diagnosed 1990-94, followed up to 1999



Developing the momentum for change

- ❖ Evidence of the problems
- ❖ Acceptance of the problems
(winning hearts and minds)
- ❖ Effective advocacy
- ❖ The role of the media
- ❖ Political Will
- ❖ Leadership

Agreeing what needs to be done

- ❖ **Developing the NHS Cancer Plan was relatively straightforward, once the momentum for change had built up**
- ❖ **Writing and publication took around 6 months**

Components of a Cancer Control Programme (1)

Themes :

- ❖ **Prevention**
- ❖ **Screening**
- ❖ **Early diagnosis**
- ❖ **Treatment**
- ❖ **Information and Support**
- ❖ **End of Life Care**
- ❖ **Research and Development**

Components of a Cancer Control Programme (2)

Infrastructure :

- ❖ **Service Structure**
- ❖ **Workforce**
- ❖ **Facilities**
- ❖ **Data Systems and Monitoring**
- ❖ **Quality assurance processes**
- ❖ **Funding**

NHS Cancer Plan : 4 Key Aims

- 1 To save lives**
- 2 To improve patients' experience of care**
- 3 To reduce inequalities**
- 4 To build for the future**

NHS Cancer Plan : Key Commitments (1)

❖ Prevention

- Smoking cessation services
- Five a Day programme
- Raising public awareness

❖ Screening

- Extend and improve the National Breast and Cervical Screening Programmes
- Introduce bowel cancer screening

❖ Cutting waits for diagnosis and treatment

- Specific targets set

NHS Cancer Plan : Key Commitments (2)

❖ Treatment

- Develop National Cancer Standards and an appraisal process
- Ensure effective new treatments are available to all patients

❖ Care

- Improvements in information and support
- Specific investment in palliative care

NHS Cancer Plan : Key Commitments (3)

❖ Workforce

- 1000 extra cancer specialists

❖ Facilities

- New CT and MRI scanners and linear accelerators

❖ Funding

- An additional £570m to be invested

Making Change Happen (1)

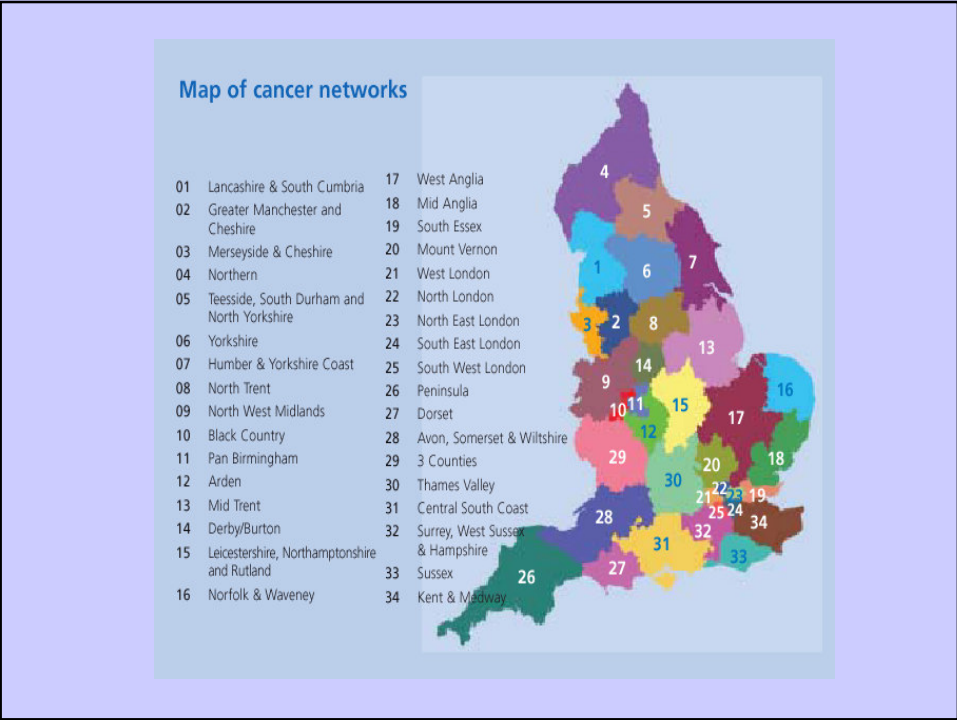
- ❖ Clear vision and consensus on the way forward (e.g. A National Cancer Plan)
- ❖ Leadership (at all levels)
- ❖ High level support (political, managerial, clinical and patient groups)
- ❖ Clear commitments : Targets and milestones
- ❖ Funding arrangements

Making Change Happen (2)

- ❖ **Delivery systems**
 - **National : Cancer Taskforce**
 - **Local : Cancer Networks**
- ❖ **Guidance on service configuration**
(Improving Outcomes Guidance : NICE)
- ❖ **Quality Assurance Processes**
(Standards and Peer Review Appraisal)
- ❖ **Quality Improvement Schemes**
(Cancer Services Collaborative)
- ❖ **Information Systems**
- ❖ **Incentives and Sanctions**

Cancer Networks

- ❖ **Typically cover populations of 1 – 2 million**
- ❖ **Partnership of organisations involved in commissioning and providing healthcare**
- ❖ **Encompasses 1^o, 2^o and 3^o care**
- ❖ **Brings together all relevant clinicians, managers and patient representatives**



Monitoring Progress on Cancer in the UK

- ❖ **The National Audit Office (which is independent of government) conducted 3 reviews into progress on cancer in 2004/5**
- ❖ **These reviews show that substantial progress has been made, but more needs to be done**

Cancer : Progress on Outcomes

- ❖ **Cancer mortality falling
(15.7% in 8 years in people under 75)**
- ❖ **Survival rates improving across a wide range of cancers**
- ❖ **Experience of care has improved between 2000 and 2004 (surveys conducted by the Department of Health and the National Audit Office)**

Progress on Cancer Service Organisation

Services have changed radically

- ❖ **Around 1500 multidisciplinary teams in England**
- ❖ **Cancer networks are bringing primary, secondary and tertiary sectors together**
- ❖ **Services for complex surgery are being reconfigured**
- ❖ **Peer review appraisal of services against national standards is underway**

Progress on NHS Cancer Plan Commitments (1)

- ✓ **Smoking prevalence is falling**
- ✓ **Breast screening has been extended**
- ✓ **Bowel screening has started**
- ✓ **Waiting time targets have been achieved**
- ✓ **Use of new anticancer treatments is increasing rapidly**
- ✓ **Accrual of patients into clinical research trials has tripled**

Progress on NHS Cancer Plan Commitments (2)

- ✓ **Additional investment has been made in cancer and palliative care**
- ✓ **The cancer workforce has expanded**
- ✓ **New facilities have been installed**

Cancer in England: Looking Forwards

❖ Challenges

- **Rising incidence of cancer (ageing population)**
- **Obesity epidemic**
- **Rising expectations in society**
- **Limited finances**

❖ Opportunities

- **New technologies**
- **New treatments**

Cancer in England: Summary

❖ We have made progress

❖ The National Cancer Plan has been extremely important in driving change

❖ We now have new challenges to meet. There is still much to be done.