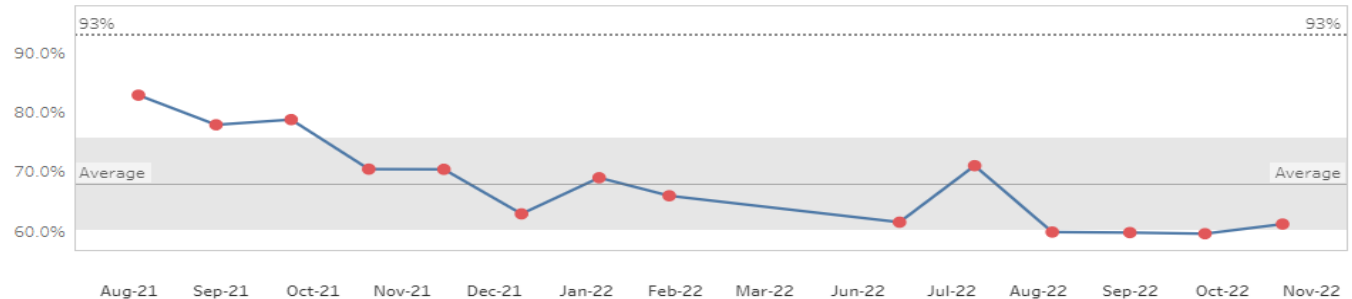


### 1. Current performance updates and challenges

Since the pandemic the volume of suspected cancer have returned to, and in some pathways significantly exceeded pre-pandemic levels (skin and lower GI referrals are more than 50% above pre-pandemic levels across GM). Whilst it is positive that patients feel able to present with cancer symptoms, this increase in demand is challenging the system. The most significant areas of challenge within cancer service performance for the Salford Locality relate to 2 Week Wait (TWW) and 62 Day treatment standards.

#### ***TWW (Urgent GP Referral) performance***



The graph above demonstrates the deterioration seen in TWW performance since September 2021; this has mainly been driven by performance challenges within skin and breast pathways. TWW (Urgent GP Referral) performance was 61.1% against the 93% standard in November 2023 which is a slight improvement on the 59.5% in October. The breach reason recorded for most of the breaches continues to be 'outpatient capacity inadequate'.

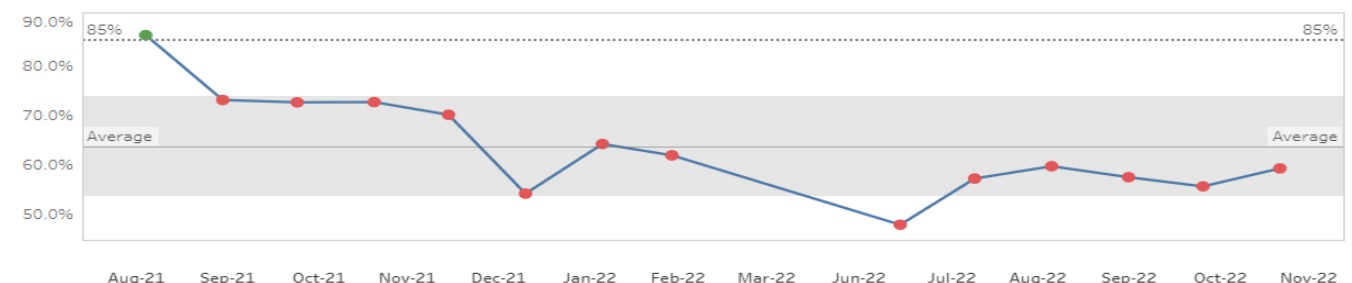
*Skin pathway* breaches at Salford Care Organisation (SCO) accounted for 56% (297/528) of the TWW (Urgent GP Referral) breaches in November 2022; the high volume of referrals, 50% more than pre-pandemic levels, combined with workforce challenges across GM in Dermatology are resulting in high numbers of breaches. The median wait time for those that breached was 57 days in November 2022. 50% of those that breached were seen within 56 days, 91% were seen within 70 days and the longest wait was 113 days.

*Breast pathway* breaches (predominantly at Manchester Foundation Trust) accounted for 22% (118/528) of the TWW (Urgent GP Referral) breaches in August 2022; breast services performance deteriorated between October 2021 and June 2022 before demonstrating continued improvement since July 2022. Performance challenges related mainly to capacity constraints because of workforce challenges. The median wait time for those that breached was 20.5 days in November 2022. 87% of those that breached were seen within 28 days, 92% were seen within 35 days and the longest wait was 76 days.

Breast Symptomatic 2WW performance has also followed a similar trend. Performance in November 2022 was 35.6% (16/45) against the 93% target, up from 17.6% in June. It is worth noting that the breast symptomatic data is currently incomplete due to MFT transitioning to a new electronic patient record system, therefore, performance improvements are likely being overstated slightly. The median wait time for those that breached was 21 days. 86% of those that breached were seen within 28 days, 97% were seen within 35 days and the longest wait was 46 days.

*Lower GI pathway* breaches at SCO had shown a significant increase in breaches in August 2022 accounting for 22% of the TWW (Urgent GP Referral) breaches in August 2022; however, this has now recovered somewhat, Lower GI breaches only accounted for 5% (29/528) of breaches in November 2022

#### ***62 Day Treatment (Urgent GP Referral) performance***



The graph above demonstrates the deterioration seen in 62 Day treatment performance since December 2021; positively, improvements in performance have been demonstrated in recent months with 62 Day Treatment (Urgent GP Referral) performance improving to 59.2% (29/49) against the 85% standard in November 2022. Recorded reasons for breaches include inadequate capacity (both outpatient and elective), delayed diagnostics and complex pathways. Breaches are spread across the various tumour groups but unsurprisingly Skin accounts for the largest proportion, 20% (4/20). There were 3 62 Day Treatment breaches in each of the Breast, Lung and Urological pathways in November 2022.

The table below shows the number of Salford Locality patients referred by GP on the TWW pathway treated that month that that waited over 104 days or more for their cancer treatment at any provider. 2 patients who were treated in January 2022 waited more than 104 days for treatment. \*April and May data incomplete due to NCA IT outages.

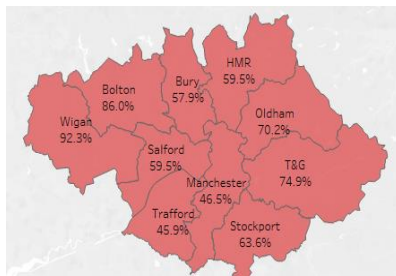
Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Jan 22	Feb 22	Mar 22	Apr 22	May 22	Jun 22	Jul 22	Aug 22	Sep 22	Oct 22	Nov 22
1	0	1	1	2	2	3	2	1	7	4	3	*	*	7	4	2	6	3	5

The position in the current live data week ending 9<sup>th</sup> January displays 25 Salford patients who have waited over 104 days and are yet to commence treatment. Reducing the number of patients waiting over 104 days for cancer treatment remains a main priority area for SCO with robust tracking and support systems in place for long waiters on the cancer pathway. SCO are committed to maintaining and improving the position further.

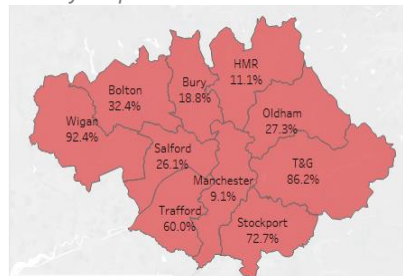
## 2. How Salford fares in comparison to other Greater Manchester (GM) Localities or national picture

Cancer waiting time performance remains a challenge both locally and nationally. The maps below show GM Locality performance for 2WW suspected cancer (all tumour groups); 2WW breast symptomatic and 62-day treatment for October 2022.

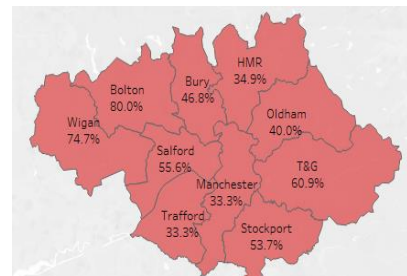
Two week waits (Urgent GP Referral)



Two week waits Breast Cancer not initially suspected



62 Day Waits (Urgent GP Referral)



NHSE data for Cancer is publicly available via: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/>

## 3. Actions being undertaken to address performance issues

### **Skin Pathway Actions**

- The pilot to streamline the referral process for patients with suspected skin cancer, by using teledermatology to triage lesions and direct referrals to the most appropriate setting, has been suspended. However, it has been agreed to trial use of advice and guidance (A&G) for single skin lesions where there is uncertainty of the diagnosis from January 2023. The dermatology dept. target is to provide a response within 48 hours. The aim is to ensure dermatology pathways are optimised and two-week waiting times are decreased, by ensuring appropriate 2WW dermatology referrals. Guidance and a proforma have been developed and images still need to accompany the requests. Use of the pathway will be reviewed as part of the Salford Standard.

The GM Dermatology Transformation Programme has been established with a programme board and clinical advisory group. The aim is to develop options to improve access and standardise dermatology provision (both general dermatology and skin cancer) across Greater Manchester. The Transformation Team has identified the following areas of work which will be led by specific delivery sub-groups and report directly into the overall GM Dermatology Transformation Programme Board:

- Optimizing Pathways
- Future Model of Care
- Education and Training
- Workforce

- The virtual Greater Manchester Skin Club GP education sessions (open to all localities in GM) continues to run monthly and have covered lesions, rashes and acne, HS and rosacea and Psoriasis and blisters to date.

### **Breast Pathway Actions (being supported by the GM Cancer Alliance)**

- Focussed work to increase primary care engagement with the new GM Cancer digital breast education programme and GP registrar breast placements, to improve the quality and appropriateness of referrals to secondary care, whilst protecting pathways that lead to earlier diagnosis of breast cancer

- Implementation of a consistent mastalgia pathway, enabling women with breast pain to be managed outside the resource-intensive triple assessment clinic and hence supporting recovery of the 2-week wait standard.

- Acceleration of the expansion and upskilling of the breast imaging workforce with regional funding of identified training programmes.

### **Lower GI Pathway Actions**

- Implementation of action plans related to lower GI improvement focussing on streamlining booking and triage processes; robust patient tracking, management, and listing processes; and increasing dedicated capacity to engineer a step change in waiting times.

-The Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC) continues to triage Lower Gastroenterology referrals so that clinically urgent referrals are prioritised.

#### 4. Other information for reporting

##### **Lung Health Check Programme**

The Salford Lung Health Check has now been completed across four of the five Primary Care Networks in Salford and the programme is currently operating in Broughton, the fifth and final Salford Locality Neighbourhood.

Up to September 2022, 18,857 people had been invited for a Lung Health Check (LHC) and 9,303 (49% against a 50% target) had accepted. Of those attending for a LHC 4,568 have been referred for a low dose CT scan. 75 patients have been diagnosed with lung cancer and 21 patients have been diagnosed with other cancers.

Positively 80% of lung cancers have been diagnosed in the early stages (stage I and stage II) increasing the chances of successful treatment.

The programme also identifies a number of incidental findings that can then be managed in primary care, these patients would not have otherwise been diagnosed and are now being actively managed.