

## **SURE – Equipment Provided during 2020**

During 2020 SURE committed funding of **£37,092** to providing items of equipment to the Radiotherapy Department at the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital to further improve patient diagnosis, treatment and outcomes. Whilst the Radiotherapy Department continued with the replacement of the third radiotherapy treatment machine (Linac) in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, the focus of the Beacon Centre during 2020 was quite rightly to continue patient treatment at the expense of planning for any new equipment to be provided with SURE funding.

### **Projects Funded by SURE in 2020:**

1. SURE allocated funding to the Radiotherapy Department to purchase laptops and software to enable staff to work remotely as and when required during the Covid-19 pandemic, at a final cost to SURE of **£19,758.24**
2. SURE funded the DICOM Modality Worklist module for MOSAIQ, to provide imaging devices used in oncology such as CT, MRI and PET, with a direct, electronic transfer of patient information from the MOSAIQ patient record system at a cost to SURE of **£5,044.74**
3. SURE approved funding in 2019 for the replacement of the patient information storage system, Network Attached Storage, NAS, at a cost to SURE of **£12,288.96**, paid in 2020.
4. SURE also approved funding for a number of small item projects to support the ongoing work of the Radiotherapy team, all expected to be invoiced for payment in 2021:
  - £1,865.82 approved funding for monitor rails to better hold the monitors in the radiotherapy control room.
  - £131 approved funding for provision of Spiroball Incentive Spirometers,
  - £812.25 approved funding the purchase of additional Valley cushions and covers to provide comfort to patients during travel to/from the Beacon Centre.
  - £335 approved funding of replacement power chargers for the Apple iPads used by the radiotherapy team.

## **The Way Ahead**

SURE is committed to ensuring cancer services at Musgrove Park Hospital, and the Beacon Centre in particular, continues to offer high quality cancer care to internationally recognised standards, as SURE continues to provide equipment and support not otherwise available within the NHS budget that is assessed to be of real benefit to patients.

SURE is committed to supporting the introduction of new and improved cancer diagnosis and treatments, enabling the Beacon Centre and wider Oncology departments at Musgrove Park Hospital to participate in national cancer treatment trials, leading to more patients being able to be treated locally at the Beacon Centre.

As outlined in the annual report for 2019 the committee and trustees worked with the Radiotherapy Department to produce a Vision for Radiotherapy in 2021 to kick-start the provision of funding new equipment by SURE before the end of 2020, outlining where SURE support and funding might best be used to the benefit of patients. As a result, in November 2020 the SURE committee and Trustees agreed a new Vision and Roadmap paper for the future development of advanced radiotherapy services with the Beacon Centre, an extract of which is available to download from the SURE website. The Vision & Roadmap is not set in stone, it is a living document setting out an agreed pathway for key areas of development over the next few years and it is anticipated that it will evolve as these new projects move forward.

As a result we have an ambitious programme of projects for the coming year, potentially requiring SURE funding of up to **£650,000**, including funding for :

- **Sterotactic Ablative Body Radiotherapy, SABR**, to deliver a wide range of advanced radiotherapy treatments. Currently, Somerset patients have to travel to Bristol for this treatment but many are unable to endure the journey so this treatment becomes unavailable to them.
- A **Mobile Phone App**, the 'Beacon Buddy', to provide patients receiving radiotherapy with easily accessible supporting information during their course of treatment.
- Provision of a new **Radium 223 treatment Suite** at the Beacon Centre, to target by injection bone metastases from prostate cancer.
- Contribution towards the refurbishment of the Beacon Centre Staff Room and facilities.
- Staff training related to the introduction of new advanced radiotherapy treatments.
- In these difficult Covid times the Beacon Centre has had to become very creative to ensure patients get the care they need whilst providing a safe environment to those who must come for treatment, the aim is to create some clinic pods and a review room. To also create the right "online" clinic spaces to support patient privacy and dignity whilst maintaining excellent care.

Whilst the Covid pandemic continues to impact the NHS it is not known how many of the projects proposed for 2021 will be able to be delivered in 2021, some may well have to move into 2022.

From the Vision Roadmap the following projects received early approval and initial funding before the end of 2020, expected to be invoiced for payment in 2021:

1. Development of the Beacon Buddy mobile phone App, funding of £30,825 approved.
2. 1<sup>st</sup> element of the Space Conversion project, funding of £4,137.08 approved.
3. GafChromic Film for the SABR project, funding of £5,851 approved.