

ACCEND Programme Update

May 2024

Dear ACCEND stakeholders,

As you may be aware, the ACCEND programme has been established to develop end-to-end transformational reform in the education, training and career pathways for nurses, allied health professionals, psychologists and pharmacists in generalist and specialist roles at all levels of practice, supporting people affected by cancer both now and in the future. The programme published a nationally agreed career pathway which is underpinned by capabilities in practice and supported through a clear and structured education and training pathway: Career Pathway, Core Cancer Capabilities and Education Framework, in January 2023.

In June 2023, the programme was referenced in the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (LTWP) and aligns with the key drivers of the plan to Train, Retain and Reform the workforce to best support people affected by cancer. The ACCEND programme remains a key NHS England programme of work, mandated for delivery through the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan. We deliver this programme in partnership with our strategic delivery partner Macmillan Cancer Support, the largest cancer care and support charity in the UK.

The national ACCEND programme is now focussed on updating, maintaining, and driving implementation of the ACCEND Framework. We will continue to play a key role in stewarding the framework; ensuring it remains relevant, and continuously improving it by collecting feedback, evidence and insight on the practicalities of implementation within the workforce. Adoption and implementation of ACCEND will happen locally. The ACCEND programme will support local implementation activity by continuing to engage with stakeholders and sharing insights, examples, case studies, tools and other materials amongst an ACCEND Community of Practice due to be launched in July 2024. We will continue to actively collaborate and engage with partners and stakeholders to promote the value of the framework and share our findings with interested colleagues across the four UK nations to support shared learning and standardisation. This will ensure that people affected by cancer receive the best possible quality care and experiences, delivered by professionals who feel equipped and confident with the knowledge, skills and capabilities required.

Following a reprioritisation process, the ACCEND Assurance Board has signed off the delivery of a number of ACCEND work packages for 2024/25, including (list not in priority order):

- Principles of Cancer Care Course for supportive and assistive staff (PCCP)
- Data Baseline & Intelligence Project
- Supportive and assistive apprenticeship scoping/development
- ACCEND Hub: Phase 1 (Supportive & Assistive Toolkit)
- ACCEND Hub: Phase 1 (Pre-reg: Foundations of Cancer Care)
- ACCEND Hub Development: 'Phase 2 – RETA – Registered to Enhanced, Towards Advanced'
- ACCEND Hub Development: 'Phase 2 – LACE - Leadership, Advanced and Consultant Education'

- Innovation Fund Offer
- Qualification in Specialty (QIS) / Clinical Leadership Module
- ACCEND Community of Practice
- ACCEND Framework update & re-branding
- Digitise ACCEND Framework
- ACCEND Webpage / comms
- Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy Recommendations
- Level 2 Psychology Recommendations
- ACCEND Framework: 4 Nation Engagement

Work packages are currently delivered by NHS England's Cancer and Diagnostics Programme Team and a programme team from the Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance and in the future, it is hoped there will be more opportunities for collaborative partnerships with other cancer alliances to take shape.

The work of ACCEND relies heavily on the ideas, expertise and support of a wide-range of subject matter experts (SME) who give their time freely to support the vision and aims of the programme. SMEs may support strategically, shaping the direction of the programme; tactically, advising and consulting on the delivery of work packages; and operationally, directly producing ACCEND documents, guidance and content. We are currently considering options to directly support SMEs who spend a significant amount of time directly advising, developing and producing content for the programme.

We will continue to work closely with other key stakeholders in this space, including staff in service, Cancer Alliances, UK Oncology Nursing Society, Royal College of Nursing, professional bodies, higher education institutions, and others. We are open to discussing ACCEND with a wider community of stakeholders, and welcome contact from anyone who is interested in contributing as subject matter experts, project delivery support, or in any other way that may be deemed relevant. You can contact us at england.accend@nhs.net

Kind regards,

Kerry Mills and June Davis

ACCEND Co-leads