LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL BENEFITS
• Understand existing good practice, and service pathway design capability
• Identify areas for support/action, including opportunities to improve pathways and outcomes by quality improvement and reducing variation
• Improve health outcomes
• Implement national policies, help transform services, especially for earlier cancer diagnosis
• Strengthen cancer commissioning capability and local intelligence to support capacity planning

WHAT WE’VE LEARNT SO FAR
• GPs refer promptly (79% of patients referred to a specialist after fewer than three consultations)
• Half of patients diagnosed as emergencies (49%) had seen their GP in the same episode of illness
• Average time from referral to communication of diagnosis was 32 days, with 54% of diagnoses taking longer than 28 days
• GPs felt that one in five patients (22%) had experienced an avoidable delay on their pathway; most due to investigations and waiting for results
• Many practices undertook quality improvement activities, often focusing on referral behaviours, safety netting or screening uptake

HOW CAN ALLIANCES AND CCGs HELP?
• Raise awareness of the audit with local practices and encourage participation
• Provide clinical leadership to support the recruitment of GP practices and regular submission of data by practices
• Ensure the learning opportunities from the audit are fulfilled at a local and regional level
• Complement input from Cancer Research UK Facilitators and Macmillan GPs

HOW IT WORKS
We will provide a secure data collection platform.
GPs will register for the audit in early 2019, and from April will submit data on key dates, investigations, referral(s) and delay(s) etc.
We will analyse the data, make tailored reports for practices, CCGs and Cancer Alliances (where possible), and support discussion of findings and service improvement planning and activity.

Information governance and data release requirements will be met.

For further information about the audit, visit cruk.org.uk/ncda

From their NCDA report, our local CCG found that many patients do not consult their GP with symptoms and instead self-refer to A&E... [and there is] late diagnosis of colorectal and lung cancers... [therefore] the CCG have decided to address the low levels of cancer awareness and screening, and to reduce the health inequalities around screening.
CRUK Facilitator