

## Radiotherapy Board

### **STATEMENT ON CANCER RESEARCH UK POLICY POSITION STATEMENT: *THE FUTURE OF RADIOTHERAPY SERVICES IN ENGLAND***

The Radiotherapy Board<sup>1</sup> welcomes the publication by Cancer Research UK (CRUK) of a new policy position statement on [The future of radiotherapy services in England](#).

Against a backdrop of rising patient demand and chronic workforce shortages across all three radiotherapy professions, it is timely that CRUK has undertaken this comprehensive investigation into the delivery of radiotherapy and what a future radiotherapy strategy should look like. The Radiotherapy Board was pleased to be invited to share its insight and expertise in the development of this strategy, and for the opportunity to help shape a document that sets out so clearly the gravity of the current situation with radiotherapy service delivery.

The CRUK statement highlights some major issues that need to be addressed within radiotherapy services – the crucial requirement for expansion of the radiotherapy workforce and retention among the hard-working staff currently on the front line of service delivery; the need to reduce inequalities in cancer by improving access at all stages of the patient pathway; the importance of developing innovative new techniques and ensuring both rapid adoption and patient access; the need for investment in up-to-date radiotherapy equipment, to ensure patients receive the best possible treatment; and the crucial role of research as the key to improving techniques and therefore patient outcomes.

If all eight of the CRUK's policy recommendations could be realised and implemented, they could lead to enhanced treatments, better outcomes, more equitable access and improved patient experience. However, the Radiotherapy Board strongly suggests that such action is needed across the whole of the UK, not just in England, to ensure that patients in *all* nations can benefit from the improvements that we hope will flow from this important statement.

**May 2023**

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<sup>1</sup> The [Radiotherapy Board](#) was established in 2013 by The Royal College of Radiologists, the Society and College of Radiographers and the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine to provide guidance, oversight and support for the continuing development of high-quality radiotherapy services for patients in the UK. It has representation from across the four UK nations and from other organisations closely involved in radiotherapy services.