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CANCER MAP OF ENGLAND LAUNCHED

AN ONLINE cancer map has been launched by the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN) today, which will provide healthcare professionals with the world's most detailed public resource of cancer statistics in their local area.

The map – called the Cancer e-Atlas – will provide a breakdown of cancer incidence and mortality by local authority and figures on cancer survival by cancer network for the most common cancers in England.

The atlas is free to access on the NCIN website and holds the most up-to-date statistics from English cancer registries and the Office for National Statistics, enabling healthcare professionals and policy decision makers to make informed decisions on treatment based on the latest cancer statistics.

Dr Colin Pollock, medical director for the Northern and Yorkshire Cancer Registry and Information Service and medical director at the Yorkshire and Humber Public Health Observatory, said: "It's really important that healthcare professionals have access to the latest statistics relevant to their area. The e-Atlas is easy to use and will be of great help to those making key decisions in the future."

The e-Atlas currently carries information on all of the 400 local authorities in England, with a view to integrating data sets from across the UK. It has been developed for the NCIN through a collaboration between the UK Association of Cancer Registries and the Association of Public Health Observatories*.

Data can be filtered by cancer site, patient gender and type of statistic – such as incidence or mortality – for each local authority. Using the computer mouse to hover over several local authorities on the map will display data directly comparing them. A 'comparisons areas' function on the website allows for instant comparisons

of national, regional and network averages. And a 'double map' function enables the user to look at data on two different cancer sites at once.

Direct links from the Cancer e-Atlas to the Cancer Research UK CancerStats website** will provide background text on what the data mean and helpful hints on how to interpret the figures.

Chris Carrigan, head of the NCIN said: "Detailed regional data like this are vitally important in making sure the best and most appropriate decisions are made. This easy to use tool will benefit those in the healthcare profession, commissioners and patients alike, helping them make informed choices. The Cancer e-Atlas sits as part of a suite of products which are being delivered through NCIN members to address these needs.

"We also hope that making this information publicly available for comparisons will act as a lever for improving standards of cancer care across the country."

ENDS

For media enquiries please contact Rachel Gonzaga in the NCIN press office on 020 7061 8252 or, out-of-hours, the duty press officer on 07050 264 059.

Notes to editors:

The Cancer e-Atlas is available at www.ncin.org.uk/eatlas

* The Cancer e-Atlas has been developed by the Yorkshire & Humber Public Health Observatory (YHPHO) - on behalf of the Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO) and the Northern & Yorkshire Cancer Registry and Information Service (NYCRIS) - on behalf of the UK Association of Cancer Registries (UKACR) for the NCIN.

** Cancer Research UK's CancerStats pages are available at <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/>

About the National Cancer Intelligence Network (NCIN)

The NCIN will coordinate the collection, analysis and publication of comparative national information on diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for types of cancers and types of patient, in a way which is useful to patients, commissioners and service providers and other interested parties. As part of the NCRI, partners will help fund

research on the data collated by the NCIN, facilitating a more informed analysis of cancer services than has ever been possible before. For more information visit www.ncin.org.uk

About the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI)

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) was established in April 2001. It is a partnership between government, the voluntary sector and the private sector, with the primary mission of maximising patient benefit that accrues from cancer research in the UK through coordination of effort and joint planning towards an integrated national strategy for cancer research. www.ncri.org.uk

The NCRI consists of: The Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI); The Association for International Cancer Research; The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council; Breakthrough Breast Cancer; Breast Cancer Campaign; Cancer Research UK; CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA, Department of Health; Economic and Social Research Council; Leukaemia Research Fund; Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research; Macmillan Cancer Support; Marie Curie Cancer Care; The Medical Research Council; Northern Ireland Health and Personal Social Services Research & Development Office; Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation; Scottish Executive Health Department; Tenovus; Wales Office of Research and Development for Health & Social Care; Wellcome Trust; and Yorkshire Cancer Research.