

# Spring Conference 2025

## POLICY MOTION

# Cancer Treatment in Wales

## MOTION AS AGREED BY CONFERENCE

This conference notes with concern that in a damning report published in January 2025 on cancer services in Wales, Audit Wales concluded that:

- A. There is a continuing failure to meet the national performance targets for cancer with a minority of patients facing unacceptably long waits for diagnosis and/or treatment.
- B. Cancer outcomes in Wales are poor compared to other countries.
- C. Stronger and clearer national leadership is urgently needed to help drive the necessary improvements in the timeliness and sustainability of cancer diagnosis and treatment.
- D. Whilst the standard for uptake of bowel screening is being achieved, this is not the case for breast or cervical screening programmes.
- E. Since August 2020, no health board in Wales has met the overall target that 75% of patients should start their first definitive treatment within 62 days of first suspicion of cancer.

In order to address these very serious concerns, this conference urges the Welsh Government to urgently implement all the recommendations made by Audit Wales in this report and to put clear and transparent systems in place to monitor progress against their implementation.

This conference further calls on the Welsh Liberal Democrats to include bold pledges aimed at improving cancer treatment provision in Wales within its manifesto for the 2026 Senedd election. These should include seeking to boost cancer survival rates by:

1. Introducing a guarantee that 100% of patients will be able to start treatment within 62 days from urgent referral.
2. Replacing ageing radiotherapy machines and increasing their number, so no one has to travel too far for treatment.
3. Recruiting more cancer nurses so that every patient has a dedicated specialist supporting them throughout their treatment.
4. Launching a new prostate cancer screening programme for those at higher risk.
5. Addressing relevant recruitment and retention challenges amongst medical staff, including by ensuring there is adequately resourced workforce planning and training in order to deliver the required medical workforce.