



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 109: 20 March 2025

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## National news

### Faster Diagnosis Programme evaluation

The final NSS evaluation report is now [available here](#).

### Shaping the Future: Have your say on the National Cancer Plan (reminder)

The Government and NHS England are working together on a new [National Cancer Plan](#). A [Call for Evidence](#) is open until 29 April, giving you the chance to share your insights.

This follows previous consultations, including the 10-Year Cancer Plan and [Major Conditions Strategy](#). If you've contributed before, consider what has changed and any new points to add.

Share your views via the [Shaping the National Cancer Plan](#) survey on GOV.UK. For questions, contact [Deborah.Robinson5@nhs.net](mailto:Deborah.Robinson5@nhs.net)

### **Norovirus cases remain high – Help spread awareness**

Norovirus activity remains high, with cases at their highest levels since 2014, particularly in hospitals and care homes. Multiple genotypes are circulating, meaning people can be infected more than once this season. Those most at risk include older adults, young children, and immunocompromised individuals.



To help prevent the spread, people are reminded to:

- ✓ Stay home for 48 hours after symptoms clear
- ✓ Wash hands with soap & warm water
- ✓ Avoid preparing food for others

A [downloadable poster](#) is available on GOV.UK to support awareness efforts. Your help in sharing these messages is greatly appreciated.

### **Videos highlighting CNS Day on 15 March**

In celebration of Cancer CNS Day, UKONS released a series of inspiring videos on their YouTube channel, with three available now and another to follow.

- Introduction by Jane Ewang – The history and aims of Cancer CNS Day.
- Cancer Internship Programme – A ground breaking initiative at South Tyneside & Sunderland NHS Trust, now expanding across the Northeast & North Yorkshire.
- Macmillan London CNS Development Lead Pilot – A three-year project supporting new Cancer CNSs in their professional growth.

These videos showcase the vital work of Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialists and the innovative programmes enhancing cancer care.

**Watch here: [UKONS YouTube Channel](#)**

## **Alliance updates**

### **Changes to QOF 2025/26**

Regarding changes to cancer-related QOF indicators. Here's some key context:

- **Cancer Registers:** While the direct financial incentive for maintaining QOF registers will be removed from 2025/26, practices still benefit indirectly through the Adjusted Disease Prevalence Factor (ADPF), which links payments to disease burden. Diagnosis coding remains essential.
- **Retired Indicators:** From 2025/26, income-protected indicators, including Cancer Care Reviews (CAN004) and support for newly diagnosed patients (CAN005), will no longer be part of QOF.

Despite these changes, primary care remains vital in cancer diagnosis and patient support. Cancer Alliances continue to play a key role, including supporting FIT testing for early diagnosis and promoting cancer care reviews through ARRS roles to enhance patient support.

### **Aria MedOnc upgrade delayed**

Unfortunately due to ongoing issues the Aria MedOnc upgrade, which was due to happen between 28 and 31 March, has had to be delayed.

Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused, and preparation you have already undertaken.

The new date for the upgrade will be confirmed within the next few weeks.

## **Place updates**

### **Sbba Siddique wins at National British Asian Media Awards**



Congratulations to Sbba Siddique, Director of Asian Star Radio and founder of Knit Your Socks Off, for winning at the National Arqiva British Asian Media Awards 2025!

Sbba who lives in Slough, was a finalist in the Podcast of the Year category for *Cancer – Taboos and Stigmas*, produced in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support. Inspired by her own ovarian cancer journey, the podcast explores health inequalities and cultural barriers to discussing cancer within South Asian communities.

Sbba said: *"I'm absolutely delighted to win this award! Raising awareness is key to ensuring early diagnosis and better outcomes. Knowledge is power."*

Listen to the podcast here: [Macmillan & Asian Star Radio](#)

## Training and events

### Applications now open for Evidence Work-Based Learning module

Macmillan Cancer Support, in partnership with the University of West of England, is now accepting applications for the 2025 cohort of the Evidencing Work-Based Learning module.

This module is designed to develop leadership skills and support you in delivering a service development project at your workplace. It's fully funded by Macmillan, offering 30 master's level credits to both Macmillan and non-Macmillan professionals.

For more information or booking assistance, contact [ServiceOpsSupport@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:ServiceOpsSupport@macmillan.org.uk) or visit the [Information page](#).

### Enhance your communication skills

The [Effective Communication in Cancer Care Programme](#) is now available for all health and social care professionals. This flexible programme is designed to help you strengthen your communication skills and build stronger, more compassionate relationships with patients.

The programme includes a variety of videos, e-learning courses, and virtual sessions, allowing you to select the courses that are most relevant to your role. Topics covered include cultural awareness, health literacy, and using silences, pauses, and questions to enhance conversations.

Take the opportunity to communicate with clarity, compassion, and confidence.

### **The cancer professionals podcast**

The latest Macmillan podcast episode, "[I See You Cancer, and I Raise You the Ocean](#)", is now live.

In this inspiring episode, Ellie Ricketts, a Macmillan Professionals Award winner, is joined by Nat Tarrab-Snooks to discuss the profound impact of cold-water swimming on wellbeing, resilience, and connection for those living with cancer. Nat's story is truly moving and inspirational.



Listen now on Apple, Spotify, or the Macmillan Cancer Support Podcast platform.

Contact: [professionalspodcast@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:professionalspodcast@macmillan.org.uk)

### **New course on Enhancing Agency and Alleviating Suffering in Palliative Care**

[This course](#) explores how life-limiting illnesses can disrupt a person's ability to thrive and succeed in important areas of life. You'll gain insights into the concept of agency, learn how to identify new causes and forms of suffering, and discover practical strategies to enrich agency and alleviate suffering for those you support.

This is an excellent opportunity to deepen your understanding and improve your practice in palliative care.

### **Webinar - Frailty and myeloma: the unmet clinical need**

Join Myeloma UK for a FREE webinar on frailty and myeloma, happening on Wednesday, 26 March 2025, from 5 - 6pm (online). This session will cover the impact of frailty on myeloma patients, effective risk assessment methods, and practical guidance for integrating these assessments into clinical practice.

[Please register here](#)

**Talking about Risk in the Context of Genomic Tests ([TARGET2](#))**



This workshop helps healthcare professionals discuss recurrence scores from gene expression profiling tests with patients. It boosts confidence and provides valuable insights.

The workshop takes place in Bournemouth on April 30 - May 01.

### **Have you ever said that? (HEARSAY)**

An interactive workshop for managing difficult conversations with patients diagnosed with metastatic and advanced breast cancer. It includes filmed patient quotes on diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment discussions.

Both workshops are free, offer CPD points, and cover standard-class rail tickets or mileage. Suitable for all patient-facing MDT members.

For more information, please contact [adminshore-c@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:adminshore-c@sussex.ac.uk) or call **01273 873017**

## **Patient facing resources**

### **Bowel Cancer Awareness Month**

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK.

Early diagnosis greatly improves survival rates, with over 90% surviving if caught early. Every 15 minutes, someone in the UK is diagnosed—around 43,000 annually. While more common in those over 50, it can affect all ages. Spotting symptoms early and contacting your GP can save lives.

Visit the [Bowel Cancer UK website](#) for more info and the toolkit

### **Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month**

April is Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Month, dedicated to raising awareness, discussing risks, symptoms, prevention, and the latest research.

More info here: [Head and neck cancer | Cancer Research UK](#)

### **Testicular Cancer Awareness Month**



April is Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of awareness and support.

Testicular cancer affects anyone with testicles, including men, transgender women, and those assigned male at birth. Around 2,300 people are diagnosed yearly.

Stephen Fry shares how NHS data powers life-saving research in a newly re-shared video. Join the 'Powered by NHS Data' campaign by re-sharing the NHSE posts below:

- [X/Twitter](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)



**Training  
and events**



**Campaign  
materials**



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