



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 122: 18 September 2025

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National news

Neighbourhood health services launch in 43 areas

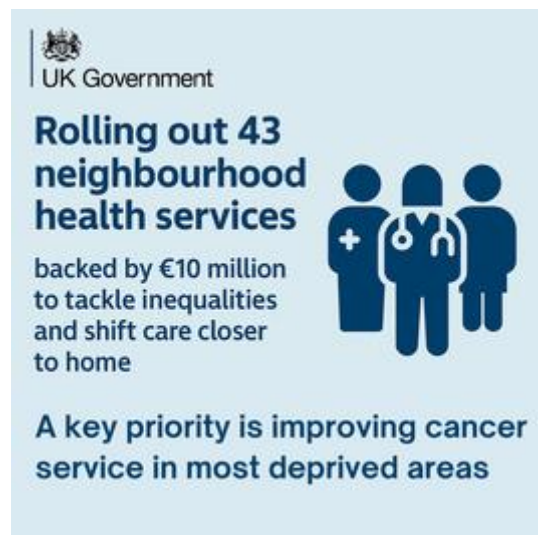
The government is rolling out 43 neighbourhood health services, backed by £10 million, to tackle inequalities and shift care closer to home.

Neighbourhood teams will bring together GPs, hospital doctors, community clinicians, diagnostics, and social care to give patients faster access to tests and joined-up support.

A key priority will be improving cancer services in the most deprived areas – expanding access to screening, speeding up diagnosis, and reducing variation in outcomes.

Wave 1 covers communities nationwide, including two areas in the Thames Valley:

- East Berkshire and Slough



- Buckinghamshire (North, High Wycombe, Marlow, Beaconsfield)

Full details, including the list of sites visit: [Millions of people to benefit from healthcare on their doorstep - GOV.UK](#)

Reminder: Digital results for NHS Cervical Screening launches

From this month, the NHS Cervical Screening Programme will send *normal results* digitally via the NHS App.

- Patients will receive an app message and notification.
- If unread within 72 hours, or if the patient does not have the app, a letter will be sent.
- *Abnormal results will continue to be sent by post.*

Actions for providers:

- Let patients know their results may arrive via the NHS App.
- Review the [provider guidance](#) (login required).
- Encourage patients to download the NHS App and enable notifications: www.nhs.uk/nhs-app.

Record cancer checks and treatments despite strikes

NHS staff delivered record cancer care in July despite 5 days of industrial action.

- **236,263 people** received a diagnosis or had cancer ruled out within 28 days – meeting the Faster Diagnosis Standard.
- **21,633 patients** began treatment within 62 days, the highest since the standard was introduced in October 2023.
- Overall, the NHS carried out **2.6 million tests and checks**, up 4% on last year and 26% on pre-pandemic levels.

Ambulance and A&E teams also managed their busiest August ever, yet achieved the fastest average Category 2 response times in more than 4 years.

Health leaders praised NHS staff for delivering record results under pressure, while the government confirmed its commitment to tackling waiting times through the 10 Year Health Plan and upcoming National Cancer Plan.

For full data, see [NHS England monthly performance statistics](#).

NHS scanning trucks help thousands access liver cancer checks



The NHS community liver health check programme has nearly doubled its mobile scanning teams in the past two years, growing from 11 to 20.

Since launch, almost 113,000 people have had a liver fibroscan, with nearly 8,500 referred for further, potentially life-saving liver cancer checks.

Read more: [NHS England – scanning trucks programme](#)

Alliance updates

TVCA new cancer screening video resources

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance is delighted to launch a brand-new series of educational screening videos, created to support Primary Care in championing early cancer detection.



The videos cover:

- How to use the symptomatic faecal immunochemical test (FIT)
- Cervical screening
- Breast screening
- Bowel screening

To make sure these resources reach as many people as possible across the Thames Valley population, they are available in multiple languages and formats, including British Sign Language (BSL), Hindi, Polish, Gujarati, Nepali, and Punjabi.

Launch event The official launch will take place on **Thursday 25 September at 12:30 PM** during the Primary Care meeting on MS Teams, [Join the meeting here](#). Please mark your calendars and join us for the first look.

Place updates

Oxford: Healthy Living After Cancer Treatment event



Oxford University Hospitals are hosting a health and wellbeing event for people after cancer treatment. The day will focus on education, information and support around healthy living after cancer.

Please share with colleagues and patients who may be interested.

When: Monday 3 November, 9:30–3pm

Where: Holiday Inn, Peartree Roundabout, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 8JD

The event is open to those who have completed treatment, are on long-term treatment, or on watch and wait.

[Register here for the Healthy Living After Cancer Treatment Event](#)

[Download flyer for more information](#)

Training and events

Reminder: National Cancer Manager Network Conference

The National Cancer Programme will host its annual National Cancer Manager Network Conference on Tuesday 14 October 2025 at the Athena, Leicester, (10am - 4.15pm, registration from 9am)

The event brings together cancer managers from across England to network and share learning. Each Cancer Alliance is invited to send one colleague.

[Book your ticket here](#)

Patient facing resources

New lung cancer screening video

A new national lung cancer screening (LCS) video has been produced to explain what happens before, during and after a scan, helping reduce anxiety about the process. View the video here: [Lung Cancer Screening – before, during, and after a scan](#)



Only around 50% of people who attend a lung health check are referred for a scan, but concerns about the procedure can prevent some from attending their appointment.

The video aims to build confidence in screening and support uptake. Versions with voice overs in other languages and a BSL interpreter are in development.

Please share widely across your networks, bulletins and social media.

Male cancer awareness week

Male cancer awareness week runs from Tuesday 16 to Sunday 21 September 2025, led by the charity Orchid.

The campaign highlights prostate, testicular and penile cancers, focusing on:

- Raising awareness of symptoms and the importance of early detection
- Encouraging regular check-ups
- Breaking down stigma and empowering men to seek medical advice

Campaign [assets are available here](#) to share through your channels.

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