



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 124: 16 October 2025

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### National news

#### **NHS delivers record levels of elective and cancer care over the summer**

New NHS data shows record activity across elective and cancer services between June and August. More than 4.6 million elective cases were completed, while 654,000 patients received a cancer diagnosis or had the disease ruled out within 28 days — the highest number ever recorded.

Despite strike action and seasonal pressures, treatment levels rose 4.4% compared with last summer. NHS leaders praised staff for delivering exceptional care while preparing for continued high demand into winter.

Read the full story here: [NHS England » Record summer of NHS activity](#)

#### **New Thames Valley ICB confirmed**

The Government has approved plans to create a new Thames Valley Integrated Care Board (ICB), which will launch in April 2026.

This is part of wider NHS reforms under the 10-Year Health Plan, aiming to improve population health, tackle inequalities, and make sure everyone has access to high-quality care.

Frimley ICB and BOB ICB are now working together through a formal collaboration (Cluster) to form the new organisation. Dr Nick Broughton has been appointed Chief Executive of the BOB and Frimley ICB Cluster. from 1 October 2025, and will lead the work to establish the new Thames Valley ICB.

Find out more: [NHS Thames Valley ICB: update on changes to Integrated Care Boards | BOB ICB](#)

### **10-Year Workforce Plan: Your voice needed**

NHS partners and stakeholders are asked to contribute to a call for evidence to support the development of the 10-Year Workforce Plan. The aim is to create a plan that empowers staff, delivers world-class care, and secures the future of the NHS.

[More info here](#)

**Closes 11.59pm, Friday 7 November 2025.**

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### **Alliance updates**

#### **Genomics takes centre stage at first TVCA Education Event**



On Monday 13 October, TVCA hosted its first-ever Genomics Education Event at Reading Town Hall - a fantastic day bringing together 55 professionals from across the alliance, generously supported by Macmillan Cancer Care.

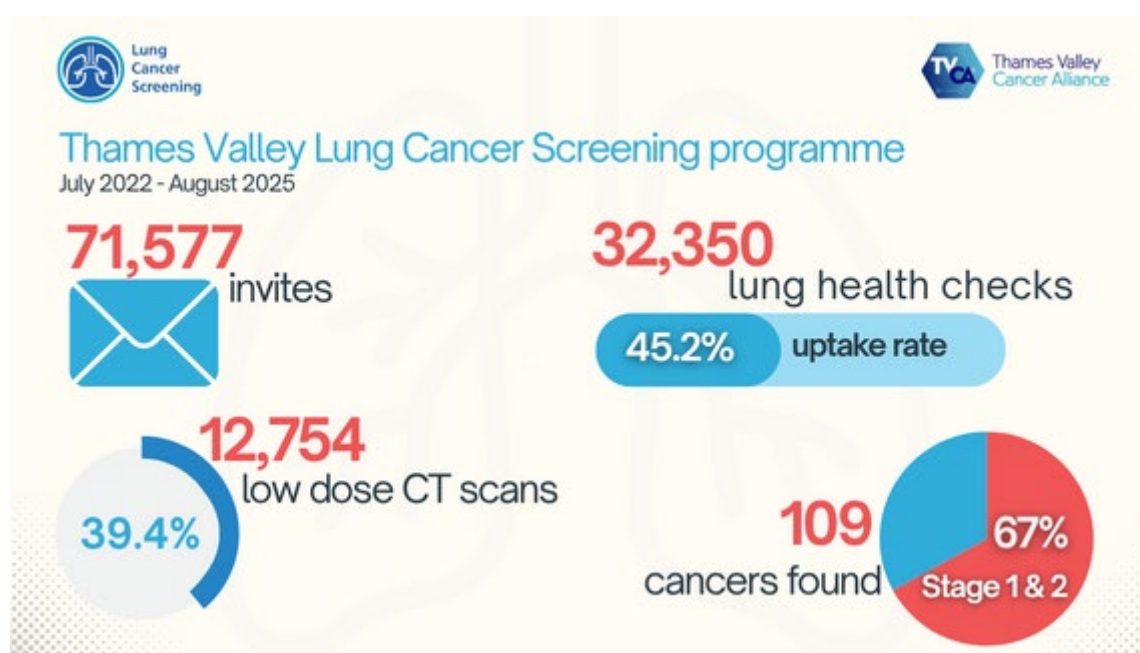
Delegates enjoyed an inspiring programme featuring experts in clinical genetics, haematology, inherited cancer testing, emerging cancer vaccines, and genomic-driven treatment planning.

Presentation slides and resources from the day are available on the TVCA website here: [Genomics resources for clinicians](#)

#### **TVCA lung cancer screening milestone**

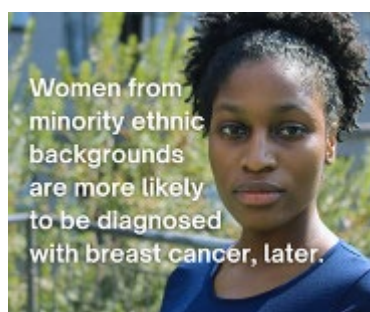
TVCA Lung Cancer Screening Programme has diagnosed over 100 lung cancers through the screening programme. The first site to go live was Great Western Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in August 2022, followed by Oxford University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in March 2024, Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust in April 2024 and the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust in June this year.

For more information about the Lung Cancer Screening Programme, get in touch or visit our website [Lung cancer screening - thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk](https://www.thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk)



## Training and events

### Black History Month: Free e-learning for healthcare professionals



A free e-learning module is available to help improve understanding of health issues affecting the Black community:

**Diagnosing breast cancer in Black women** – a 30-minute RCGP course exploring risk factors and barriers to diagnosis. [Register free on the RCGP website.](#)

**New UKONS publication - Free online access**

A new book, co-authored by Mark Foulkes, RBH Lead cancer nurse, is now available with free online access: [Cancer Care in the Post-COVID World](#)

### **Macmillan Education and Learning – Free online opportunities**

Macmillan Cancer Support, in collaboration with the University of West of England, is accepting applications for the *Evidencing Work-Based Learning* module until the end of October. The module helps develop leadership skills and supports service improvement projects within your workplace. Macmillan fully funds 30 level credits for successful applicants. Find out more and apply here: [Macmillan Cancer Support](#)

The self-led Online HOPE programme is also available for people affected by cancer. It focuses on developing skills to manage the emotional, physical, and practical challenges of life with and beyond cancer. More information is available on the [Online HOPE programme page](#).

### **Updated Pancreatic Cancer online course**

Pancreatic Cancer UK has updated its free, CPD-certified Introduction to Pancreatic Cancer course for health professionals. More info here: [Introduction to pancreatic cancer course](#)

The three-part series covers symptoms and diagnosis, treatment options, and symptom management — ideal for both new and experienced clinicians.

Access the course or find out more at: [hpnetwork@pancreaticcancer.org.uk](mailto:hpnetwork@pancreaticcancer.org.uk)

### **Pancreatic Cancer UK – Free treatment webinar**

Pancreatic Cancer UK – Free Treatment Webinar Series. Join Pancreatic Cancer UK this October for part two of a free webinar series for health professionals:

#### **Chemotherapy and radiotherapy – 22 October, 9-11am**

Email [hpnetwork@pancreaticcancer.org.uk](mailto:hpnetwork@pancreaticcancer.org.uk) for further information.

### **Nuffield Health – Free cancer activity programme**



This programme supports people undergoing hormone therapy for prostate cancer.

Delivered in partnership with the STAMINA research team at Sheffield Hallam University, the 24-week programme provides supervised exercise, personalised plans, and access to local Nuffield Health gyms — completely free of charge.

For details or referrals, email [CAP@nuffieldhealth.com](mailto:CAP@nuffieldhealth.com)

### **Cancer professionals podcast – The power of Acute Oncology**

The latest episode of *The Cancer Professionals Podcast* explores the fast-paced world of Acute Oncology, featuring Naomi Clatworthy, Acute Oncology Nurse Consultant, and Peter Cook, who shares his personal experience of a rare oncological emergency. Produced by Macmillan Cancer Support and UKONS, the episode highlights how Acute Oncology Services are transforming cancer care and improving outcomes.

Listen on major podcast platforms or via the [Macmillan website](#).

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### **Patient facing resources**

#### **November awareness campaigns**



November marks a focus on four key cancer awareness initiatives

Find out how to get involved, share resources, and support early diagnosis:

- **Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month** – [Pancreatic Cancer UK](#)
- **Lung Cancer Awareness Month** – [Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation](#)
- **Gastric (Stomach) Cancer Awareness Month** – [Cancer Research UK: Stomach Cancer](#)
- **Mouth Cancer Action Month** – [Mouth Cancer Foundation](#)

## National Cholesterol Month – October

**1 in 2 adults** in the UK are affected by high cholesterol - understanding how to manage this supports overall health as well as cancer recovery.

Encourage people to know their numbers, get tested, and make small changes that protect both heart and long-term health.

More details: [National Cholesterol Month 2025](#)

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Cancer Alliance



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