



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 127: 27 November 2025

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### National news

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#### **Hundreds more blood cancer patients to access life-saving treatment**

More people with an aggressive form of blood cancer will now be offered hope of a cure as the NHS expands access to a life-saving drug. The national rollout means hundreds more patients can benefit from this treatment and gain what clinicians describe as “a new lease of life.”

Read more here: [NHS England » Hundreds more blood cancer patients to receive life-giving drug on NHS](#)

#### **Government launches first Men’s Health Strategy**

The government has launched a bold plan to tackle physical and mental health challenges faced by men and boys, and reduce inequalities. View more here: [Government unveils first ever Men’s Health Strategy](#)

#### **Ovarian Cancer Call for Evidence: Questionnaire Now Open**

The Faster Diagnosis Programme has launched a Call for Evidence to gather insights on ovarian cancer diagnostic pathways and current improvement initiatives. The feedback collected will help identify challenges, highlight opportunities for change and shape future national guidance and support.

Stakeholders are encouraged to complete the questionnaire and share it with colleagues and providers. The deadline for responses is **COP Friday 5 December**.

Findings will be shared with Cancer Alliances through the Ovarian Cancer Subgroup and the Gynaecology Cancer Pathway Implementation Group in early January.

For queries, contact [england.cancerfasterdiagnosis@nhs.net](mailto:england.cancerfasterdiagnosis@nhs.net)

### **Macmillan Cancer Support: Updated Prehabilitation in Cancer Guidelines**

Macmillan has published the updated *Prehabilitation in Cancer: Clinical and Implementation Guidelines* (2025), now available on their website:

[Prehabilitation resources for healthcare professionals](#)

The guidelines offer evidence-based recommendations to support pathway redesign, business cases and service delivery. They draw on a comprehensive review across six key areas, including implementation, health economics, behaviour change, nutrition, psychological support and exercise. Cancer Alliances can use the document to inform improvement plans for prehabilitation and physical activity.

### **New case studies: Inclusive approaches to cervical cancer elimination**

To support ongoing work to increase HPV vaccination and cervical screening uptake, and to address health inequalities, a set of new case studies highlighting innovative practice from across the country is now available.

The case studies include:

- **South West:** Engagement with primary care to improve awareness and access to HPV vaccination for 16–25 year-olds: [Toolkits to improve HPV Vaccination Uptake in the South East Region.pdf](#)
- **North West:** Inclusive approaches to screening, including delivery of cervical screening through a mobile service to reach underserved communities: [Inclusive approaches to Screening - Mobile Cervical Screening Service.pdf](#)
- **South East:** Toolkits designed to support local initiatives and strengthen HPV vaccination coverage: [Engagement with Primary Care as part of Cervical Cancer Elimination in the South West.pdf](#)

If you have examples of effective practice you would like to share, please contact [england.vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:england.vaccination@nhs.net)

**Tech-enabled colorectal cancer pathway introduced at West Hertfordshire**

West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospital has become the first NHS trust to offer a fully technology-enabled pathway for colorectal cancer patients, delivering digital prehabilitation support before and after surgery.

The year-long trial will involve 300 patients, who will access personalised exercise, nutrition and psychological wellbeing programmes through an app.

More info here: [NHS trust offers first fully tech-enabled pathway for colorectal cancer patients](#)

**Please share with your patients, service users and networks**

Melanoma UK and Thiscovery are running a national listening project to understand people's experiences of melanoma and other skin cancers, including diagnosis, treatment and support. The project also seeks views on future priorities for campaigning and services.

#### **Who should take part?**

- Individuals with a diagnosis
- Family members, friends and carers
- Anyone interested in skin cancer prevention

The survey is open until **12 December**. Wider sharing will help ensure every voice is heard.

**Survey link:** [Melanoma UK national listening project](#)

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#### **Alliance updates**

##### **TVCA Lung Cancer lunch and learn**

TVCA has partnered with Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation to host an hour of lung cancer education on Thursday 4 December between 12.30 and 13.30pm.

The session is aimed at anyone interested in expanding their understanding of lung cancer and aims to:

- increase understanding of lung cancer risk factors, signs and symptoms to support earlier detection
- provide an overview of the lung cancer pathway in secondary care

- share learning and recommendations from the TVCA Thrombocytosis audit
- update on local and national lung cancer projects and opportunities

To join the session, please use this Teams link: [Join the meeting now](#)

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## **Training and events**

### **Improving ethnicity data quality across the NHS**

NHS England has published an [Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan](#) to strengthen the quality, consistency and completeness of ethnicity data across the system.

Accurate and up-to-date data supports better service planning and helps ensure equitable access, experience and outcomes. The plan outlines practical actions for organisations to identify and address data quality issues, supporting efforts to better understand and reduce health inequalities.

A webinar will be held on **2 December, 2–3.30pm** for those who would like to learn more. Join here: [Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan - Launch Webinar | NHS England Events](#)

### **NHS Impact operational improvement training programme**

The NHS [Impact operational improvement training programme](#) is now open to clinical and operational colleagues in Band 6–8a roles (or equivalent), including those in primary care.

The programme strengthens leadership and operational management skills, offering practical tools to address day-to-day challenges, support teams and improve outcomes for patients. Participants complete a one-day core module followed by optional specialty modules tailored to specific clinical areas.

Cohort dates and registration are available on the Learning Platform: [NHS England » NHS IMPACT Operational Improvement Training Programme](#)

### **Bowel Cancer Screening Programme: Reducing Inequalities Webinar Series**

The NHS England Bowel Screening Programme and Equalities Team are launching a virtual webinar series highlighting work to reduce inequalities in bowel cancer screening.

The first session will take place on **Monday 8 December, 10–11am**, covering:

- Why addressing bowel cancer screening inequalities matters  
The Bowel Grid: a tool to support targeted improvement work

More details and registration are available via this link: [NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Reducing Inequalities Webinar](#)

### **Launch of learning disabilities and cancer training module**

The South East London Cancer Alliance has worked with the [Baked Bean Charity](#) and [Guy's Cancer Academy](#) to develop a [new educational module](#) on learning disabilities and cancer.

The module is designed to help healthcare professionals support people with learning disabilities in accessing cancer care and screening. Input from Baked Bean students has ensured the content reflects what matters most to this community.

The training aims to improve cancer risk mitigation, patient experience, early diagnosis and outcomes. It is intended for all primary care staff, with useful guidance for secondary care colleagues. Topics covered include:

- Additional healthcare needs of people with a learning disability
- Effective communication strategies
- Reasonable adjustments to improve accessibility
- Best practice for making screening and health checks accessible
- Creating and maintaining an inclusive practice environment

### **Digital films aim to boost breast screening confidence**

A new digital initiative is helping to improve breast screening uptake and reduce inequalities. A short, patient-centred video walks viewers through the screening process step by step, helping to reduce anxiety and increase understanding.

To make screening more inclusive and accessible, translated versions have been created, along with *Let's Talk About Breasts* – a dedicated film designed for women with learning disabilities and autism.

View the film on YouTube: [Let's Talk About Breasts | Breast screening explained for women with learning disabilities](#)

### **New breast cancer trial added to the Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad: ROSETTA Breast-01**

The Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad is expanding to include the ROSETTA Breast-01 (BNT327-05) immunotherapy trial for patients with previously untreated,

locally recurrent inoperable or metastatic triple negative breast cancer (TNBC). This follows the existing ROSETTA Lung-02 study for non-small cell lung cancer.

CVLP sites will begin screening potential patients for referral, with the first site due to open by **March 2026**. Please share with relevant breast cancer contacts across your Alliance.

For further information, contact [molly.obadiah1@nhs.net](mailto:molly.obadiah1@nhs.net)

### **Online course: Nurturing compassionate and inclusive NHS culture**

This course is open to colleagues in all roles and grades and explores how organisational culture influences staff wellbeing, quality of care and patient outcomes. It focuses on compassionate and inclusive leadership, practical approaches to building positive team cultures and the role of values-based leadership in improvement.

Registration for the January cohort is now open. Visit: [NHS England » Online course – nurturing compassionate and inclusive NHS cultures](#)

### **Research study: Recruiting adult family members for end-of-life cancer care research**

Following the successful completion of 44 interviews with health and social care professionals across 24 countries, the research team is now seeking adult family members to contribute to the next phase of the study, which explores the experiences and needs of families facing end-of-life cancer while caring for dependent children. Findings are expected to be shared in Spring 2026.

The team is recruiting adults who were either at end of life themselves or bereaved relatives (such as co-parents) who had significant caregiving responsibilities for dependent children. Participants should meet at least two of the following criteria:

1. Unemployment
2. Low household income
3. Not having completed secondary education
4. Single-parent family

Participation involves a one-off interview via MS Teams or WhatsApp.

If you are able to help identify an eligible adult family member who may wish to take part, please share the study information sheet:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/ulster/adult-pis>.

Individuals can also contact the research team directly on WhatsApp: **07457 428449**, or email the lead researcher for further information.

### **Reminder: National MDT Coordinator Conference**

The next National MDT Coordinator Conference will take place in Nottingham on **Thursday 12 February 2026**. Colleagues from Cancer Alliances and regional teams are invited to attend.

Expressions of interest are also welcome from colleagues who would like to present or lead a session, particularly on:

- MDT Coordinator education and development
- MDT streamlining and improvement, including use of technology

If you are interested in attending or presenting, please email [robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net](mailto:robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net)

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### **Patient facing resources**

#### **Decembeard!**



**Decembeard** runs throughout December to raise awareness of bowel cancer.

People are encouraged to grow a beard and spark conversations about symptoms, early diagnosis and the support available through Bowel Cancer UK.

More details here: [Decembeard | Bowel Cancer UK](#)

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Thames Valley  
Cancer Alliance



**Training  
and events**



**Campaign  
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