



# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

## Issue 129: 30 January 2026

This January bulletin marks the first of our new monthly Cancer Alliance updates. Alongside a look back at January, we focus on what's coming up in February across the Thames Valley and nationally.

As ever, your feedback and articles are very welcome: [bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net)

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**January recap**

**National January highlights**

**Bowel cancer screening expansion and digital communications**

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NHS England announced continued rollout of lower FIT thresholds [NHS to detect and prevent thousands more bowel cancers with more sensitive screening](#) and the introduction of digital pre-invitations for bowel cancer screening via the NHS App.

Early pilots have demonstrated improved engagement and faster kit returns, supporting earlier diagnosis. View: [NHS App and your NHS account](#)



### **World-first genetics register for inherited cancers**

A new national genetics register will support people at increased risk of inherited cancers, enabling faster access to screening, surveillance and testing for more than 100 cancer-associated genes.

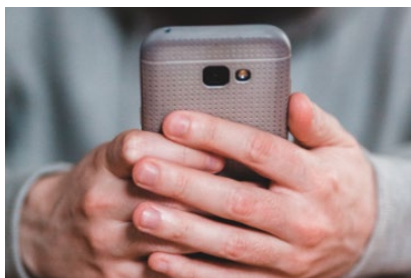
More: [NHS England » Thousands at risk of inherited cancers to receive regular NHS checks through world-first genetics programme](#)

### **Expanded access to CAR-T therapies**

NHS England confirmed wider access to personalised CAR-T cell therapies for eligible patients with aggressive leukaemia, offering new treatment options through specialist centres.

More here: [First leukaemia patient to get pioneering drug on NHS says it is 'very sci-fi' - BBC News](#)

### **Texting, emailing and messaging patients and service users**



Updated guidance covers information governance topics to consider when sending or receiving messages about health and care services by text, email or other types of messaging.

See more here: [Texting, emailing and messaging patients and service users](#)

### **Men's Health Strategy for England**

Published in December 2025, the [Men's Health Strategy for England](#) details the government's 10-year vision for men's health and the actions being taken to improve the health and wellbeing of all men and boys.

## **New AI and robotics plans aim to detect lung cancer earlier**

DHSC announced plans to use AI-enabled robotic surgery to improve lung cancer outcomes, alongside a commitment to roll out the lung cancer screening programme nationwide by 2030.

Read more here: [NHS launches trailblazing AI and robot pilot to spot lung cancer sooner alongside screening programme set to tackle cancer inequalities](#)

## **Jess's Rule: GP Practice Poster**

All GP practices in England have received a poster for consultation rooms highlighting Jess's Rule. The rule promotes a "3 strikes and rethink" approach, encouraging clinicians to pause and review when symptoms escalate or remain undiagnosed after three appointments. View more and download materials here: [Jess's Rule: Three strikes and we rethink](#)

## **Prostate conditions prioritised in NHS online hospital**

Prostate conditions are among nine priority areas for the NHS's new online hospital, set to launch next year and offer faster access to specialist care. The NHS Online service is expected to begin seeing patients in 2027 and deliver up to 8.5 million virtual appointments in its first three years.

More information: [Menopause and prostate conditions prioritised for NHS's new online hospital](#)

## **National campaigns in January:**

**Cervical Cancer Awareness Month:** TVCA promoted HPV vaccination and cervical screening messages across social channels, encouraging parents, carers and eligible patients to engage with prevention and screening programmes.

**Cervical Cancer Prevention Week (19–25 January):** Targeted content highlighted the importance of HPV vaccination and cervical screening in preventing cancer, alongside national elimination ambitions.

## **TVCA January highlights**

### **Psychological medicine support**

Oxford University Hospitals produced a clinician-facing video to raise awareness of the integrated psychological medicine support service within the OUH cancer centre.

The resource is aimed at GP referrers across the BOB region and encourages earlier consideration of psychological support and joint working between primary care and specialist teams. A patient-facing version will follow which we will share once live.

View the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxv0KGR3mts>

### **Lung cancer screening and prevention awareness**

Throughout December January, TVCA supported national lung cancer screening and prevention messaging, including amplification of patient stories and screening awareness content to encourage uptake among eligible populations.

Additionally, we added a toolkit of materials for stakeholders to download or request. View more here: [Lung cancer screening - thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk](https://thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk)



### **'Defend Your Future' HPV vaccination campaign**

In December and January, TVCA developed and delivered our *Defend Your Future* HPV campaign, using digital and printed channels at football matches which were on Sky Sports on Boxing Day and New Year.

The focus was on promoting catch-up vaccination and cancer prevention information for younger men and women. All materials linked to the [HPV vaccination](#) page on our website.

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## **Coming up in February**

### **National news**

#### **NHS IMPACT: Co-production of improvement**

A national webinar on Wednesday 25 February 11 – 11.50am will explore how meaningful patient and public involvement can support improvement, followed by a wider co-production webinar series through March. More info and sign up here: [NHS IMPACT Masterclass: Coproduction of Improvement](#)

## **Calling all GP staff – Share experience of delivering HPV catch-up service for 16-24 year olds**

NHS England's Vaccination Digital Team are undertaking work to better understand general practices' experiences of delivering the [HPV catch-up service for 16–24-year-olds](#), including what works well and what could be improved. The findings will inform future plans and the technology used to support vaccination delivery.

General practices are invited [to share their feedback by completing a five-minute survey](#).

## **Prostate cancer screening consultation**

The UK National Screening Committee has opened a public consultation on its draft recommendation for prostate cancer screening. The proposal does not support population-wide screening but suggests a targeted programme for men aged 45–61 with confirmed BRCA1 or BRCA2 variants. Further research is planned to address evidence gaps. View public consultation here: [Prostate cancer consultation](#)

The consultation closes on **Friday 20 February 2026**, with final recommendations expected in March 2026.

More information and details on how to respond are available on the UK NSC website: [UK NSC opens consultation on draft prostate cancer screening recommendation](#)

## **The NHS Excellence Awards**

Celebrate local teams delivering the ambitions of the 10 Year Health Plan and inspire others to improve access, quality and patient experience. Run by and for the NHS, the awards are free to enter, with no charge for shortlisted teams to attend the ceremony at NHS ConfedExpo on 10 June.

Entries close at 5pm on Friday 6 March. If you know teams or individuals delivering outstanding local innovation, please encourage them to apply. More info at: [NHS Excellence Awards](#)

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

## **Networks, data and improvement**

**National Cancer Manager and MDT Coordinator Networks:** The national networks continue to grow and offer peer support, mentoring, shared learning and access to resources for MDT coordinators and cancer managers working in

secondary care. Colleagues are encouraged to join or find out more. If you would like to discuss the networks further, please contact [england.cancerperformance@nhs.net](mailto:england.cancerperformance@nhs.net).

**Cancer Quality of Life Survey dashboard update:** The Cancer Quality of Life Survey dashboard has been updated with additional responses, with expanded data now available at Cancer Alliance and ICB level for selected cancer types. The updated [dashboard](#) now includes data from 775,135 people invited up until September 2025.

*Reminder:* Tickets are now available for the in-person **National MDT Coordinator Conference on Thursday 12 February 2026 in Nottingham**, please email [robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net](mailto:robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net) to reserve a place.

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## Thames Valley news

### **New palliative and end-of-life care service**

From January 2026, Sue Ryder will deliver an expanded palliative and end-of-life care service across Berkshire West and South Oxfordshire, including a single point of access, hospice at home and bereavement support.

More here: [Sue Ryder launches new NHS South East palliative care services](#)

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## Training and events

### **Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Cancer Education event**

An education event for the whole MDT organised by the Thames Valley and Wessex Teenage and Young Adult Cancer ODN. The programme covers fertility preservation, sexual health, late effects, patient voice and current referral pathways. More here:

- **Date: Wednesday 4 March**
- **Time: 9 am – 4pm**
- **Venue: Apollo Hotel, Basingstoke, RG24 9NU**
- **Cost: £10 for Doctors/Nurses/AHPs**

More at: [TYA Cancer ODN Education & Networking Day](#)

## Shine Shake Up – one-day retreat for younger adults affected by cancer

Shine Cancer Support is hosting a free *Shine Shake Up* retreat for people diagnosed with cancer in their 20s, 30s or 40s. The day offers a supportive space to meet others, process emotions linked to diagnosis and treatment, and build practical coping skills through structured group activities. More info here: [Shine Shake Ups | Shine Cancer Support](#)

- **Date: Saturday 28 March**
- **Time: 10am - 4.30pm**
- **Venue: Maggie's, The Patricia Thompson Building, Old Road, OX3 7LE**

All food and refreshments included. Friends, partners or carers are welcome to attend. Registration is required. See attached flyer for more details: [Oxford Shake Up March 2026](#)

**MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT**  
Ouh Macmillan Radiotherapy Late Effects Service  
**EDUCATION EVENING**

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD ON:

**AGENDA**

- Overview of the late-effects service
- Case discussions
- Patient advocacy
- Late-effects research in Oxford
- Q&A

**5.15 - 7.30 PM** WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2026

**RICHARD DOLL BUILDING**  
OLD ROAD CAMPUS, HEADINGTON  
(OXFORD, OX3 7LF)

**REGISTER NOW**

Contact us: [RadiotherapyLateEffectsService@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:RadiotherapyLateEffectsService@ouh.nhs.uk)

## OUH Macmillan Radiotherapy Late Effects Service – Education evening

Stakeholders are invited to an education evening hosted by the OUH Macmillan Radiotherapy Late Effects Service. This will be held on:

- **Date: Wednesday 4 February**
- **Time: 5.15–7.30pm**
- **Venue: Richard Doll Building, Old Road Campus, OX3 7LF**

The session will provide an overview of the late-effects service, case discussions, patient advocacy insights, and updates on late-effects research in Oxford, followed by a Q&A. This event is open to healthcare professionals and partners with an interest in radiotherapy late effects.

**Registration is required. Visit:** [OUH Radiotherapy Late Effects Education Event](#) or use the QR code on the attached flyer

Contact [RadiotherapyLateEffectsService@ouh.nhs.uk](mailto:RadiotherapyLateEffectsService@ouh.nhs.uk) for further information.

**Ardens cancer tools training**

TVCA has partnered with Ardens ([Ardens Solutions](#)) to deliver a practical training session demonstrating how Ardens tools can support cancer prevention, early diagnosis, referral quality and ongoing care in primary care.

The session will showcase system-embedded tools for screening, safety netting, referrals, reviews, end-of-life care and population health insight.

**Register via the Ardens link here: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)**

**Contact with any queries: [k.osigho@nhs.net](mailto:k.osigho@nhs.net)**

### **Macmillan podcast for cancer health and care professionals**

Macmillan's Cancer Professionals Podcast is a bi-monthly educational podcast for health and social care professionals, covering key issues across the cancer care pathway through expert and lived-experience voices.

The series has over 16,500 listens across 22 episodes, making it a valuable learning resource for the cancer workforce.

View more here: [The Cancer Professionals Podcast | Macmillan Cancer Support](#)

### **BRCA1 and BRCA2 webinars for primary care**

Central and South Genomics and West Midlands Cancer Alliance are hosting two lunchtime webinars in March to support primary care professionals. Sessions will cover BRCA1 and BRCA2 genomics, the role of family history, associated cancers, referral pathways, testing, management, and reproductive considerations.

- **Date: Thursday 5 and Thursday 12 March**
- **Time: 12 - 1pm**

**Register your attendance here: [Get free tickets – Cancer Genomics in Primary Care: BRCA1 and 2](#)**

If any of you would like to attend the event, please email [robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net](mailto:robyn.cutforth1@nhs.net) to reserve a place.

A free event for people living with and beyond cancer will take place on Monday 9 March in Oxford, offering talks on well-being, fatigue, physical activity and nutrition, alongside opportunities to meet local support organisations.

- **Date: Monday 9 March**

- **Time: 9.30am - 3pm**
- **Venue: Holiday Inn, Peartree Roundabout, OX2 8JD**

[Download and share the flyer](#)

More here: [FREE Healthy Living After Cancer Treatment- tools for a healthier tomorrow](#)

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### GIRFT webinar – developing breast pain pathways

A GIRFT-led webinar on **Thursday 5 February 12.30 – 1.30pm** will share learning from breast pain pathway development across East Midlands and Greater Manchester, with opportunity for discussion and questions.

More info on joining here: [Developing and implementing breast pain pathways](#)

### Patient communications

**New poster highlights barriers to healthcare access for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities**



An awareness poster has been produced highlighting key barriers and solutions to healthcare access for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, following 2023/24 research on access and inclusion.

The poster is free to download and suitable for display, online meetings, and presentations: [Download poster here](#)

### Awareness days

- Kidney Cancer Awareness week 2-6 Feb - <https://www.kcuk.org.uk/kcaw26/>
- Oesophageal Cancer Awareness Month - [Oesophageal cancer awareness month](#)
- World Cancer Day 4 February - <https://www.worldcancerday.org>

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Thames Valley  
Cancer Alliance



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If you have a TVCA Bulletin article you would like to share, just get in touch with us at: [bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net](mailto:bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net)

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