Thames Valley Cancer Alliance bulletin: August 2026 Issue 135

# Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

**Issue 135: 31 July 2026**

Alongside a look back at news in July, we focus on what's coming up in August across the Thames Valley and nationally.

As ever, your feedback and articles are very welcome: **bobicb-bw.tvca.bulletin@nhs.net**


- July recap
- Coming up in August
- National updates
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## July recap

**New hope for people with rare blood cancers**

NHS England has approved two new treatments for rare blood cancers, benefiting around 200 patients each year, including children with relapsed Hodgkin lymphoma and patients with rare histiocytic neoplasms. Some patients will also be able to receive treatment at home, reducing hospital visits.

Read more

**NHS urges people in their 50s to complete bowel screening**

Around **100 bowel cancers are now being detected every week** through the NHS Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. Despite this, people in their 50s remain the least likely age group to return their home testing kit. If you're invited, completing your FIT kit could help detect bowel cancer before symptoms develop.

Read more

**Potential cancer-preventing vaccine enters first UK trial**

Researchers at the University of Oxford and Moderna have received approval to begin the first clinical trial of an investigational mRNA vaccine designed to help prevent cancers associated with Lynch syndrome.

Read more:

- University of Oxford: First trial of vaccine to prevent Lynch syndrome-associated cancers
- Moderna and the University of Oxford announce INTERCEPT-Lynch trial

## Coming up in August

### National updates

**New Cancer Waiting Times fundamentals published**

NHS England has published updated Cancer Waiting Times (CWT) Fundamentals guidance to support Trusts in improving Cancer Waiting Times performance during 2026/27. The guidance includes best practice on pathway management, multidisciplinary team (MDT) processes, escalation, transformation priorities, and training resources for MDT coordinators, navigators and cancer managers.

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance is working closely with Trusts across the region to support implementation of the updated Fundamentals.

If you have any questions or would like further support, please contact: victoria.saungweme@nhs.net.

Download the updated Cancer Waiting Times Fundamentals (PDF).

**National mesothelioma audit launches this autumn**

Mesothelioma UK and the June Hancock Mesothelioma Research Fund are launching the British Snapshot Mesothelioma Audit (BriSMA) this autumn. The UK-wide audit will provide the first national snapshot of mesothelioma diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for almost a decade, helping to identify variation in care and support future improvements.

Clinical teams are invited to register their interest now and will receive an information pack to support local participation.

Find out more: Brisma@mesothelioma.uk.com

Healthcare professionals with an interest in mesothelioma can also subscribe to Mesothelioma in Focus, a quarterly update from Mesothelioma UK.

Read more

**Making whole genome sequencing more accessible**

A new approach developed by East Genomics and Addenbrooke's Hospital is making whole genome sequencing (WGS) more accessible by removing the need to rapidly freeze tumour samples after collection.

Using a liquid preservative instead, samples can now be collected at more hospitals, transported more easily and processed without specialist freezing facilities.

The nationally accredited approach is expected to improve access to genomic testing, helping more patients benefit from personalised diagnosis, targeted treatments and clinical trials.

Read more: East Genomics: Expanding access to cancer genome sequencing

**Alliance news**

**Local patient shares experience of preparing for a colonoscopy**




A new Thames Valley Cancer Alliance video produced by OUH features a patient sharing their experience of using Plenvu bowel preparation ahead of a colonoscopy, alongside practical advice from a clinician.

By combining lived experience with clinical guidance, the video aims to reassure patients, answer common questions and support high-quality bowel preparation before their appointment.

We will also be sharing the videos with our Trusts to support patients through their diagnostic pathways.

There is a full length video, plus 5 short reels covering the key questions people ask when preparing for a colonoscopy.

- Watch the full video: YouTube
- Watch the reels on our bowel cancer patient page: Bowel cancer

**Bowel cancer awareness van hits the road this August**

Our new Bowel Cancer Awareness Van will be visiting communities across Thames Valley and Swindon throughout August, bringing trusted bowel cancer information and advice closer to where people live.

The campaign aims to increase awareness of bowel cancer symptoms, encourage uptake of bowel cancer screening and support earlier diagnosis by engaging directly with local communities.

If you work with patients or community groups, please help us spread the word and encourage people to visit the van when it's in their area.

Visit our website for the latest locations and campaign updates.

**TVCA joins TikTok**

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance has launched a new TikTok channel to help reach younger audiences with trusted information about cancer prevention, symptoms and screening.

Content will be introduced over the coming months, supporting campaigns including HPV vaccination and bowel cancer awareness.

**Follow us:** @thames.valley.can

## Training

**Cancer Care course now open for September applications**

Frimley Health's university-accredited module is open to nurses and AHPs looking to enhance their knowledge of cancer care.

Blended learning begins in September and aligns with ACCEND enhanced, advanced and consultant levels of practice.

Read more:

Contact: fhft.educationacademy@nhs.net

**GatewayC training and courses**

GatewayC has released new educational resources, including updates on prostate cancer family history, gastrointestinal stromal tumours (GIST), HIV and cancer pathways, plus a free Sarcoma Awareness Month course and podcast.

Read more

**Professional Development & Clinical Leadership in Cancer (BCU)**

Birmingham City University is offering a Level 6/7 online module in Professional Development and Clinical Leadership in Cancer, starting **24 August**. The course covers leadership, change management and professional development for the cancer workforce.

Read more

## Events

### National Cancer Patient Experience Survey webinar




Join the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey webinar on 11 August (10.30am-12pm) to hear the latest survey results and learn how to explore the qualitative findings.

Register here: National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2025 Results Webinar | NHS England Events

## Patient communications



**World Lung Cancer Day** – 1 August Raising awareness of lung cancer symptoms and encouraging people to seek medical advice if something doesn't feel right. Early diagnosis saves lives.

**Bowel cancer awareness van** - Throughout August we'll be sharing updates, locations and photos from our community awareness van as it visits towns across Thames Valley. Please help us spread the word by sharing our social media posts and encouraging local communities to visit the van.

**Prevention matters 5 quick reminders** - running throughout August. Sharing messages on ways people can lower the risk of developing cancer by:

- stopping smoking
- keeping a healthy weight
- drinking less alcohol
- doing physical activity
- a reminder of sun safety for your skin during the summer and beyond

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Thames Valley Cancer Alliance











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