Thames Valley Cancer Alliance bulletin: September 2026 Issue 136

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 136: 28 August 2026

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

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

- August recap
- Coming up in September
- National updates
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- Events
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August recap

HPV self-testing kits rolled out across England



The NHS has begun rolling out HPV self-testing kits for women and people with a cervix who have not attended cervical screening following previous invitations.

The new invitation-only option allows eligible people to take a simple vaginal swab at home and return it to the NHS for testing for high-risk HPV. The rollout will initially focus on those aged 30 to 65 and aims to make screening more accessible for people who may find it difficult to attend an appointment.

- Find out more about the programme in the NHSE announcement: NHS England » NHS rolls out discreet home-testing kits against cervical cancer for millions of women
- Download and share the patient information leaflet

Support prostate cancer research with Prostate Progress

Primary care colleagues are being encouraged to help raise awareness of Prostate Progress, a major research programme supported by NHS DigiTrials which aims to improve prostate cancer diagnosis, treatment and care.

Free posters, flyers and patient information booklets featuring Stephen Fry are available for practices to use in waiting rooms and clinics. Access resources by emailing: progress@pcr.org.uk

New Q&A on targeted prostate cancer screening

Targeted prostate cancer screening is expected to be introduced in England in 2027 for men aged 45 to 61 who have a confirmed BRCA2 gene variant and a family history of breast, ovarian, pancreatic or prostate cancer.

A new Q&A has been developed for colleagues working in primary care and genomics to support conversations with patients about the programme.

Read the targeted prostate cancer screening Q&A

Updated guidance on prostate cancer testing

Following the UK National Screening Committee's recommendation on prostate cancer screening, the Government has confirmed that England's first targeted

prostate cancer screening programme will be established from 2027 for a specific group of men.

New information has been published setting out where GPs and members of the public can find current guidance on prostate cancer testing, ahead of the introduction of the new programme.

Read the letter containing guidance and information on prostate cancer testing

Coming up in September

Personalised Care Week 2026



Health and care colleagues are invited to take part in **Personalised Care Week 2026**, taking place from **21–24 September**.

The Personalised Care Institute is hosting **six free webinars** sharing practical approaches, innovation and learning about how personalised care can improve outcomes for people and communities.

Topics include **neighbourhood health, long-term conditions, work and health, supporting people after cancer treatment, building personalised care into everyday practice, and the role of Allied Health Professionals in neighbourhood health**.

The sessions are designed to provide practical ideas and examples that colleagues can take back to their own roles, teams and services.

Colleagues can attend whichever sessions are most relevant to their work and are encouraged to share the programme across their teams and professional networks.

View the full programme and register for free:
https://www.personalisedcareinstitute.org.uk/education-and-training/personalised-care-week-2026/

National updates

One year on: is the NHS 10 Year Health Plan being delivered?

The King's Fund looks at progress one year after publication of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan, including the three shifts from hospital to community, analogue to digital and sickness to prevention, and asks how far these ambitions are translating into change.

Read analysis here: One year on, is the NHS 10 Year Health Plan being delivered? | The King's Fund | The King's Fund

Help reimagine holistic cancer care closer to home

Macmillan Cancer Support and Q have launched Macmillan Q Lab, bringing together people from health and care services and communities across the UK to explore how holistic cancer care could be delivered closer to people's homes.

The programme will support participants to develop and test ideas that could improve cancer care.

Find out more and get involved with Macmillan Q Lab

Updates to the Cancer Genomic Test Directory

NHS England has made several updates to the Cancer Genomic Test Directory, including changes to testing for carcinoma of unknown primary (CUP), endometrial cancer and breast cancer.

NHS South East Genomics has published further information about the changes, alongside a recording of a recent education session on CUP testing.

Find out more about the Cancer Genomic Test Directory changes

Alliance news

Dr John Park to step down as TVCA Medical Director

Dr John Park will step down from his role as Medical Director for Thames Valley Cancer Alliance in mid-September.

John has made an outstanding contribution to the Alliance, providing clinical leadership, supporting partnership working across the system and helping to improve cancer services and outcomes for people across the Thames Valley.

We would like to thank John for his leadership and commitment to TVCA and wish him all the very best as he continues his work as a consultant.

Plans to ensure continued strong clinical leadership for TVCA are being developed with the regional team, with further information to follow.

Free prostate cancer awareness theatre performances in Reading



Two free performances of **Barbershop Uncut Stories** are coming to Reading this October, using theatre and storytelling to start conversations about prostate cancer, family, identity and men's health.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the UK and Black men face a particularly high risk, with **1 in 4 Black men diagnosed during their lifetime**.

The performances take place at **Reading Rep Theatre at 7pm on Friday 16 and Friday 23 October 2026** and are open to everyone.

Tickets are free, but advance booking is essential.

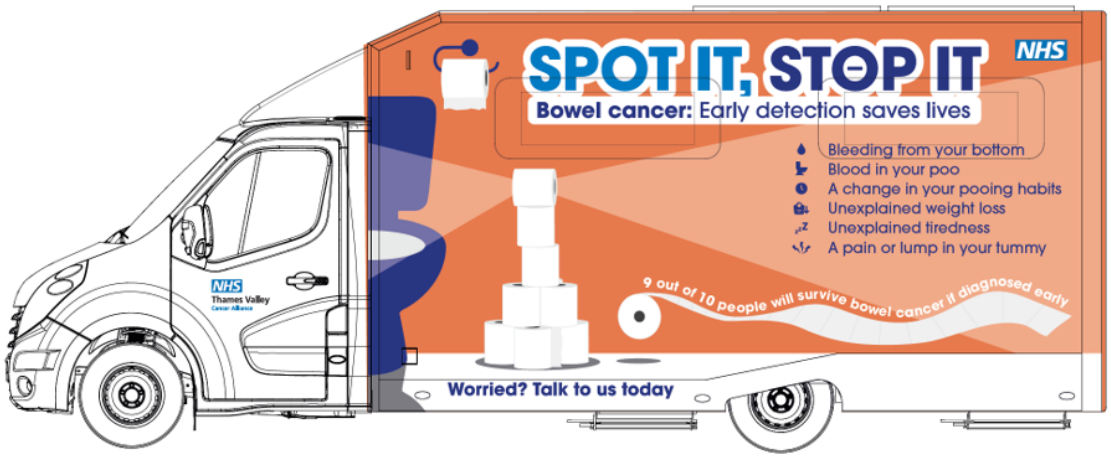
Book tickets: https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/barbershop-uncut-stories-national-tour-reading-4859212

Please share this opportunity through your teams, networks and local communities.

Download materials:

- Poster
- Digital ad

Bowel cancer awareness van hits the road in September



The Thames Valley Cancer Alliance bowel cancer awareness van will begin visiting communities across the Thames Valley in September, helping people learn more about bowel cancer symptoms, reducing their risk and NHS bowel cancer screening.

The friendly team will be on hand to answer questions, explain the bowel cancer screening FIT kit and provide information and translated resources. Visits are free and no appointment is needed.

September visits:

- **10–12 September:** High Street, High Wycombe
- **17 September:** Jamia Rehmania, High Wycombe
- **18–19 September:** Tesco, Oxford
- **24–26 September:** IKEA Reading, Theale

Please help us spread the word by sharing the dates with patients, colleagues and local communities.

Check the latest dates, times and locations:
https://thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk/our-work/campaigns-and-events/

Head & Neck Education webinar

Thursday 24 September | MS Teams

Not every ulcer, lump or white patch is cancer, but knowing which patients need urgent assessment is key to earlier diagnosis.

Join Jennifer Graystone, Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, and Krupali Patel, Consultant in Oral Medicine, for an interactive one-hour webinar exploring what makes a good urgent suspected cancer referral.

Using practical case examples, the session will cover signs and symptoms that should prompt an urgent suspected cancer referral, common benign conditions that can mimic malignancy, alternative referral pathways and the clinical information needed to support effective triage and timely assessment.

The session is particularly relevant to colleagues working in primary care.

Please share with relevant colleagues across your practice team. Join on MS Teams here

For further details and a Teams link please email: k.osigho@nhs.net

Training

Free Cancer Demystified webinars for the Thames Valley cancer workforce



Thames Valley Cancer Alliance is funding free access to Cancer Demystified for people working within cancer services across the Alliance.

The programme offers live webinars and on-demand recordings covering a wide range of cancer topics, providing flexible learning to help staff build their cancer knowledge, skills and confidence.

Free access is available until 31 May 2027.

Visit the TVCA Webinars page to explore the programme, get the TVCA access code and find out how to register.

Find out more and access Cancer Demystified: Webinars - thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk

NHS cervical screening webinar – 9 September

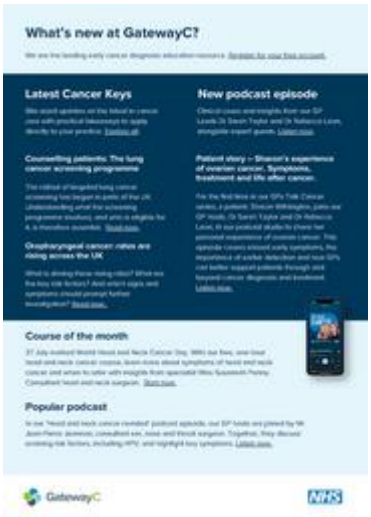
Wednesday 9 September, 12pm–1pm

A national NHS webinar will provide an overview of the new HPV self-testing pathway, including the clinical pathway, operational arrangements, training and implications for primary care.

The session is relevant to colleagues involved in delivering and supporting cervical screening services.

Register for the NHS cervical screening programme webinar.

New cancer resources for primary care from GatewayC



GatewayC has published new resources to support primary care colleagues with earlier cancer diagnosis, including guidance on counselling patients about lung cancer screening, an update on rising rates of oropharyngeal cancer, and a new podcast sharing a patient's experience of ovarian cancer.

Explore the latest GatewayC cancer resources.

Included is an **Earlier lung cancer diagnosis webinar on 24 September from 12.30 to 1.15pm.**

This is a CPD-accredited webinar for primary care colleagues on supporting lung cancer screening, smoking cessation and earlier diagnosis. Find out more and register for the webinar

Events

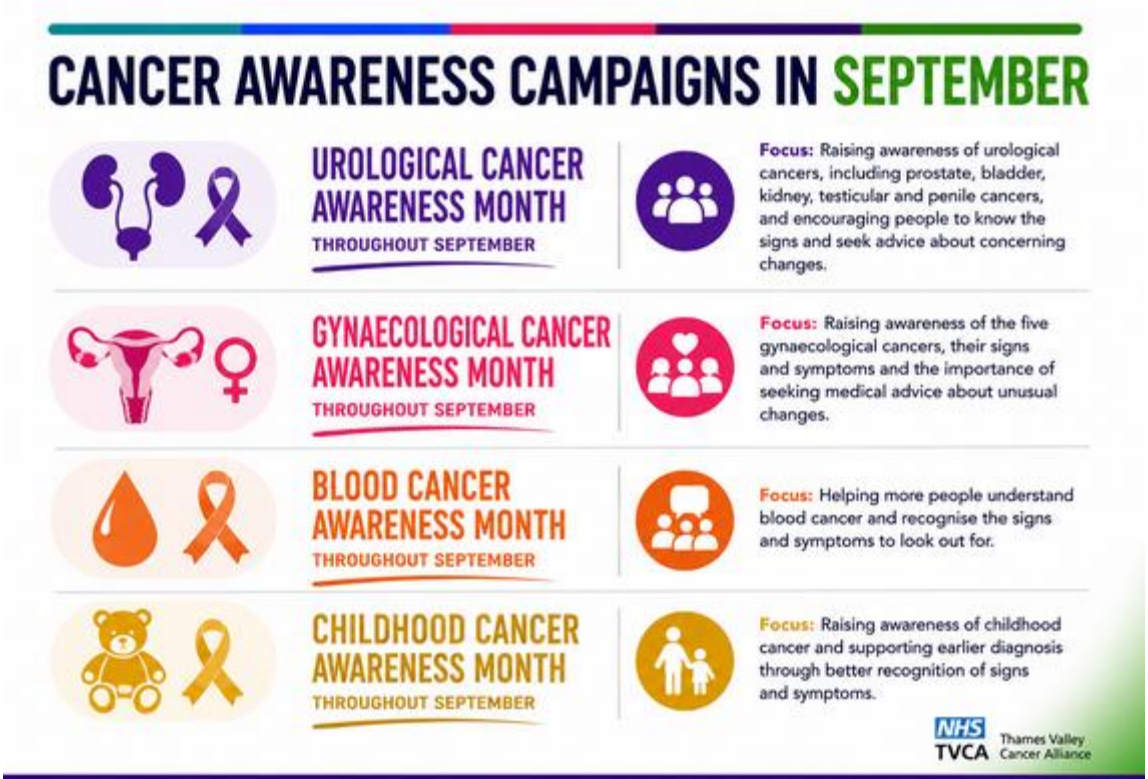
National Cancer Services Networks – information session

The National Cancer Services Networks provide peer support for cancer MDT coordinators, navigators, trackers, cancer centre and performance colleagues and information managers working in secondary care.

The next information session takes place on Tuesday 15 September at 10am via MS Teams.

For the meeting link or more information, contact england.cancerperformance@nhs.net.

Patient communications



Urology Cancer Awareness Month – throughout September September is Urology Awareness Month, raising awareness of urological diseases and cancers and encouraging better understanding of urological health. The Urology Foundation has a dedicated 2026 campaign page, with resources for patients, professionals and supporters being added for the campaign. Urology Awareness Month 2026 – The Urology Foundation

Gynaecological Cancer Awareness Month – throughout September Help raise awareness of the five gynaecological cancers: womb, ovarian, cervical, vulval and vaginal, including their signs and symptoms and the importance of earlier diagnosis. Gynae Cancer Awareness Month – The Eve Appeal

Blood Cancer Awareness Month – throughout September Blood Cancer Awareness Month aims to raise the profile of blood cancer and encourage more

people to understand and talk about its signs and symptoms. Blood Cancer Awareness Month – Blood Cancer UK

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month – throughout September September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, raising awareness and support for children and young people with cancer. CCLG also has 2026-specific downloadable social media resources. Childhood Cancer Awareness Month 2026 – CCLG

Like and follow our social media channels:

Facebook

BlueSky

Instagram

LinkedIn

Nextdoor

YouTube

TikTok

Thames Valley Cancer Alliance







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**

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