Thames Valley Cancer Alliance

Issue 138: 30 October 2026

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

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

- October recap
- National updates
- Alliance news
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October recap

Specialist oesophageal cancer procedure introduced at Horton General Hospital

Oxford University Hospitals reported an expansion of its oesophageal cancer service at Horton General Hospital, supported by specialist equipment funded through Oxford Hospitals Charity.

More at: Specialist cancer procedure comes to the Horton General Hospital - Oxford University Hospitals

£105,110 Macmillan grant to improve LGBTQIA+ cancer care in Thames Valley

Thames Valley Positive Support received funding from Macmillan Cancer Support to expand local cancer care and support services.

Read more at Reading Voluntary Action

Breast cancer care hub launched by HQIP

Launched for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the new Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) hub brings together national clinical audit findings, resources and patient perspectives to support improvements in breast cancer care. More: Breast Cancer Awareness Month - HQIP

National cancer audit findings published

The National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre published updated State of the Nation findings, highlighting improvements alongside continuing variation in cancer care across NHS services.

Read more here: NATCAN announcement

Government announces progress on clinical trial timescales

The government has announced that it has met its target to speed up clinical trials, aiming to help patients access innovative treatments more quickly.

The development is relevant to cancer research and the wider ambition to improve access to new treatments through the NHS. read more here: Faster clinical trials bring cutting-edge treatments to patients - GOV.UK

National updates

NICE consultation: AI technologies for prostate cancer diagnosis

Consultation closes 12 November 2026

NICE is consulting on draft guidance recommending five AI technologies to help radiologists detect prostate cancer on MRI scans.

The technologies could improve the accuracy and consistency of diagnosis, while further evidence is gathered on their use in the NHS.

Feedback from the consultation will inform NICE's final guidance.

View the draft guidance and consultation details

NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme: applications open

Applications are open for the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme, supporting NHS clinical and non-clinical staff to develop innovative ideas, technologies and services that could improve patient care. More: Apply - NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme

Application deadline: 20 November 2026, 4pm.

Funding for earlier cancer diagnosis

Up to £25.4 million is available through Innovate UK to support the development and evaluation of innovative cancer diagnostic technologies, particularly for less common cancers. Closing date for applications is **4 November 2026** at 11am.

More: Competition overview - Advancing innovation in accelerated cancer diagnosis - Innovation Funding Service

Alliance news

Barbershop Uncut Stories brings prostate cancer awareness centre stage



Two sold-out performances of *Barbershop Uncut Stories* took place at Reading Rep Theatre on 16 and 23 October, as part of Reading's Black History Month celebrations.

Delivered in partnership with NHS Thames Valley Cancer Alliance, the performances were followed by discussions with healthcare professionals, giving audiences the opportunity to ask questions, explore the issues raised and learn more about prostate cancer and earlier diagnosis.

The production was featured in Reading Borough Council's Black History Month 2026 programme, helping bring this important health message to a wider community.

Find out more: Barbershop Uncut review | Understand your prostate cancer risk

BRAVE: breast reconstruction decision aid

TVCA are distributing 500 copies across our 5 trusts in November. These will be given to patients on a library loan basis following discussion with the clinical team.

This is a visual decision aid designed to support women considering mastectomy and breast reconstruction.

Connecting ACCEND and Personalised Care Symposium



Healthcare professionals from across Thames Valley came together in High Wycombe on 14 October for our ACCEND and Personalised Care Symposium.

Sessions covered the national ACCEND framework, multidisciplinary working, prehabilitation and rehabilitation, AI and automation, and practical examples from cancer services.

Read the event review and see photographs from the day

Macmillan Money and More: financial support for people affected by cancer

A new regional referral service, Macmillan Money and More, provides free, confidential money and welfare advice for people affected by cancer.

The service supports people in participating areas, including Oxford, Reading and Swindon, helping them access advice and support with financial concerns.

Healthcare professionals and community partners are encouraged to share the resource with patients and families who may benefit.

Find out more: Macmillan Money and More

The service is also signposted on the TVCA Your Treatment webpage.

Training

AI in women's health and cancer screening

11 November 2026 | 10.30am–12pm | Online

The AI Ambassador Network's inaugural conference will explore the role of artificial intelligence in transforming women's health, including retinal and breast cancer screening.

The session will also consider how healthcare professionals can assess whether AI technologies are working effectively for their patients.

More and sign up here: Membership - Artificial Intelligence Ambassador Network

Exploring cervical cancer prevention: Podcast

The latest series of NHS England's Transforming Primary Care podcast opens with a discussion on cervical cancer prevention, including screening and work to improve prevention across the NHS. Listen to the podcast here

New podcast: Primary care's role in cancer care

The latest episode of NHS England's *Transforming Primary Care* podcast explores how primary care teams are helping to deliver the National Cancer Plan.

A panel of Primary Care Network cancer leads discusses approaches to improving earlier diagnosis, increasing cancer screening uptake and reducing health inequalities. Listen to the podcast.

Prostate cancer in primary care: Webinar

26 November, 1–2pm | Online.

A practical session on prostate cancer risk, PSA testing, symptom investigation and shared decision-making. Register here.

GatewayC resources for primary care

GatewayC has shared a selection of resources to support cancer recognition, diagnosis and management in primary care:

- Transitional cell cancer: recognising the red flags
- Is breast pain a symptom of breast cancer?
- Prostate cancer: the PSA conversation every GP should be having
- Breast cancer recurrence: online course

GIRFT webinar: Improving care for people with pancreatic cancer

Thursday 19 November 2026 | 12.30–1.30pm | Online | Free

NHS England's Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme is hosting a webinar exploring how enhanced supportive care and supportive oncology can improve outcomes and quality of life for people with pancreatic cancer.

Led by GIRFT's pancreatic cancer clinical leads, the session will share practical examples of good practice and approaches to improving patient care.

Find out more and register

NATCAN State of the Nation: November webinar series

5, 11 and 13 November 2026 | 1–2pm | Online

The National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre (NATCAN) is hosting three webinars exploring findings from its 2026 State of the Nation cancer audit reports.

Sessions will cover diagnosis, treatment and support; variation in treatment; and outcomes and survival.

Open to healthcare professionals, Cancer Alliances, patients and the public. More here: Webinar Series: Exploring Key Findings from the 2026 State of the Nation Reports - National Cancer Audit Collaborating Centre

Genomics webinars

- **Genomics Communities of Practice:** A webinar on 10 November, 12–1pm, will share learning and resources from NHS East Genomics. More: Establishing a regional Genomics Communities of Practice programme: Learning from East Genomics
- **Genome-directed therapies:** NHS England's Genomics Education Programme is offering a free webinar series exploring genomic treatments and their application in clinical practice. More: Registration page for The Clinician's Guide to Genome-directed Therapies
- **Genomics in Primary Care:** Central and South Genomics and Wessex Cancer Alliance are hosting face-to-face education events for primary care professionals, covering genomic testing, inherited cancer risk, personalised treatments and other developments in genomic medicine.
  More: Information and register here

Fully funded ACCEND-aligned cancer care training

Fully funded places are available on the *Principles of Cancer Care Programme (PCCP)*, a national four-day online course delivered by Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance.

Aligned with the ACCEND framework, the programme is designed for unregistered cancer support staff, including Cancer Support Workers, Navigators and Coordinators, who work directly with patients.

Upcoming cohorts run from 26 November 2026 to February 2027. Participants must attend all four course days and obtain manager approval before booking. View course dates and book a place

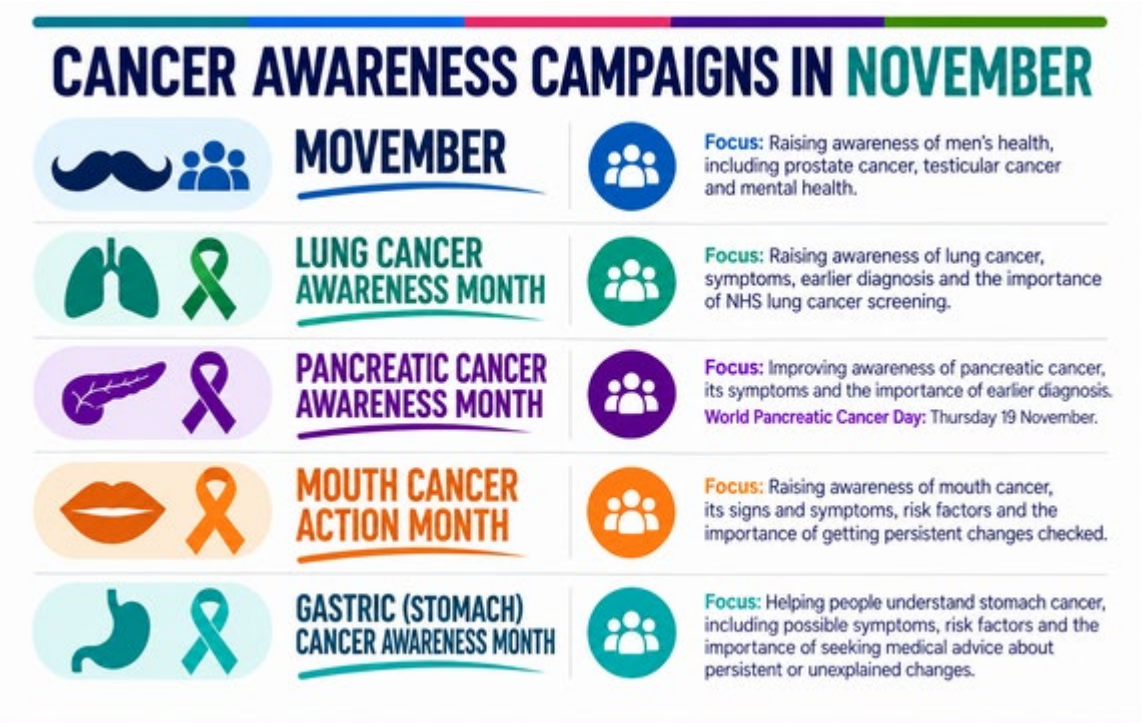
Events

Early Diagnosis Conference 2027

18–19 May 2027 | Manchester. Bringing together researchers, healthcare professionals and system leaders to explore how evidence can improve earlier cancer diagnosis. Abstract submissions close 13 November and early-bird registration closes 1 December, according to CRUK's October bulletin. More: Conference information.

Patient communications

Cancer awareness campaigns in November



Movember: Building on our recent football partnerships and community activities, we'll continue sharing prostate cancer awareness resources and information. More: Movember UK



Lung Cancer Awareness Month: Our football club partnerships will help promote NHS lung cancer screening and encourage people who receive an invitation to take up the offer. More: TVCA lung cancer screening information and resources

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month: More: Pancreatic Cancer UK

Mouth Cancer Action Month: More: Mouth and throat cancers - thamesvalleycanceralliance.nhs.uk

Gastric Cancer Awareness Month: More: Stomach cancer | Cancer Research UK

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