Wessex Cancer Alliance Patient and Public Steering Group and Network Impact Summary: July-September 2025



Wessex Cancer Alliance commissions Involving People at Help & Care to involve volunteers with lived experience in the work of the Alliance. The Steering Group acts as a critical friend to ensure patient and public involvement is effective. Here's a look back on the previous quarter's work.

This quarter we redesigned the leaflet we use to encourage people to join us. We first held a workshop with members of the network and steering group, and we then refined the design and wording at our away day. Scan the QR to view.

Members of the network and steering group came together with Wessex Cancer Alliance and Help & Care for our in person Away Day in September.

We heard from the Alliance about the development of a new online support hub, plans for Systemic Anti-Cancer Treatment and we learned how our Alliance's performance compares nationally. Help & Care gave a presentation on their Community Research projects.

A great day and a reminder of the difference lived experience makes across Wessex.

Snapshot of volunteer activity this quarter

- Our reader panel reviewed 3 pieces of information, including a cervical screening video pilot and HPV vaccination information.
- Our network volunteers continue to take part in regular focus groups within Wessex Cancer Alliance, such as Personalised Care, Frailty, Prevention and Early Diagnosis.
- Volunteers were invited to take part in interviews for this years 'know the signs' campaign.
- Volunteers attended and participated in the Alliance Cancer Care for Everyone Conference in Southampton.
- We published our annual report this quarter, shining a spotlight on the achievements of our volunteers in 2024-2025.

1 new volunteer joined our Reader Panel this quarter. We now have 17 people on the panel in total. There are 9 people on our steering group and 33 on our network.



Plans for the next quarter:

- Grow / diversity our network and steering group.
- Support the Alliance in the development of their new online hub of cancer support information.

> Some amazing work going on by the Wessex Cancer Alliance and partners, very inspiring. It was also amazing to meet amazing people with lived experience. Their contribution is incredibly rich.
>
> *- Network Volunteer*

A partnership between Involving People and Wessex Cancer Alliance

involving people

NHS Wessex Cancer Alliance