

Wessex Cancer Alliance Patient and Public Steering Group and Network Impact Summary: January-March 2025



Wessex Cancer Alliance has commissioned 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.

At our February steering group we:

- Reflected on our recent away day and how it went.
- Had a guest speaker from Portsmouth Hospitals to talk about End of Treatment Summaries.
- The Alliance updated us about work going on around the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey and Health Inequalities planning.

4 new volunteers joined the network, we now have 34 in total. 4 people joined our Reader Panel taking the total to 14. We have 9 steering group members.

We held our away day at Lakeside Country Park in January. Steering Group and Network members came together with Wessex Cancer Alliance and Help & Care staff - we spoke about the new WCA strategy, training and development for the network, the Cancer Matters Wessex Website and much more. It was great to see everyone and celebrate the difference we make.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Setting priorities for the year ahead, like growing our network.
- Complete a skills audit of our group to determine training needs.

Snapshot of volunteer activity this quarter

- Our reader panel have reviewed 3 pieces of information, including screening related articles for the Cancer Matters Wessex site.
- Our network volunteers continue to be represented on regular focus groups within Wessex Cancer Alliance, such as Personalised Care, Frailty, Prevention and Early Diagnosis.
- We have a volunteer who is representing us at a national level, ensuring Wessex based patient experience is heard.
- Our volunteers have spoken at a Personalised Care Conference this quarter, been part of an interview panel and attended a local CAN Empower event.
- Our volunteers were invited to share their feedback on the National Cancer Plan via a survey.



I was curious to understand more about the Alliance and learn more about their hopes for the future. It was good to hear how they had responded to prior patient and public feedback and suggestions. This set the scene using plain language and also explained the context and background of their ambitious five - year plan.

- Sarah, Steering Group Volunteer



Scan the QR code for the full report!

A partnership between Involving People and Wessex Cancer Alliance
www.involvingpeople.org