

Wessex Cancer Alliance Patient and Public Steering Group and Network Impact Summary: April - June 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.

Snapshot of volunteer activity this quarter

- All volunteers received a letter personally thanking them for their contribution, to mark World Volunteer Day.
- Supported Breast Cancer Now with their Secondary Care grant proposal.
- Continued to support Alliance workstreams such as Personalised Care, Timely / Faster diagnosis, Systemic Anti Cancer Treatment (SACT).
- Continued involvement in national initiatives around the 10 year Cancer Plan.
- Invited to participate in a trial about Exercise During Immunotherapy for Cancer.

I'd be grateful if you could pass on my thanks to the Reader Panel, I really appreciate the time they take to help us and their valuable input.

Keith Withers, Digital Comms – Wessex Cancer Alliance

2 people joined our reader panel this quarter. We now have 16 people on the panel in total. There are 9 people on our steering group and 33 on our network.

Plans for the next quarter:

- Holding our September in person away day
- Participating in the Cancer Matter Wessex website review



At our April and June steering group meetings we:

- Learnt about the Alliance's engagement plan to test the suitability of using SkinVision - an app that uses AI to help detect skin cancer and monitor changes to people's skin.
- Discussed the NHS England restructure and how this may impact the Cancer Alliances locally.
- Were joined by a GP who shared updates about pressures being faced at present and the current landscape more broadly.
- Discussed development and training opportunities available to the Steering Group.
- Planned our upcoming in person Away Day which will take place in September.

Our reader panel celebrated its 6 month anniversary this quarter. So far, the panel have reviewed 5 pieces of information including webpages on PSA testing and Lung Screening and a test message about Lung Health checks. The group are having a real impact, ensuring cancer information is patient friendly.

A partnership between Involving People and Wessex Cancer Alliance