



An update from the West Midlands Cancer Alliance



November 2025

Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with the latest cancer events, updates and projects happening throughout the West Midlands. Please feel free to share this newsletter within your teams. If you would like to submit an article for a future newsletter, please contact angela.gould1@nhs.net.

In this edition:

- [Spotlight on National Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#)
- [Health and Justice UK Summit](#)
- [Publication of prehabilitation guidelines](#)
- [Mobile cervical screening service launches](#)
- [Tackling inequalities in Wolverhampton](#)
- [Community Partnership in action](#)
- [Continued progress on Life Sciences](#)
- [Cancer training for general practice nurses in Coventry and Warwickshire](#)
- [National Webinar on Improving Physical Activity in Cancer – Change of Date](#)
- [Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan webinar](#)
- [NHSE & CRUK webinar: Inequalities in bowel cancer screening](#)
- [Primary Care update](#)
- [Upcoming Expert Advisory Group \(EAG\) meetings](#)
- [Cancer Academy](#)
- [WMCA Expert Advisory Group \(EAG\) recruitment:](#)

In the spotlight

Primary care colleagues set to boost NCPES data

Primary care colleagues are being encouraged to improve the feedback received from the National Cancer Patient Survey (NCPES).

The 2025 NCPES started to be sent to eligible patients from 10 November 2025, with fieldwork closing on 30 January 2026.

All adult NHS patients with a confirmed primary diagnosis of cancer who were admitted as inpatients or seen as day cases for cancer-related treatment, and discharged during April, May, or June 2025, will receive a survey about their experience of cancer care.

We are asking Primary Care teams to support patients in their practices who fit these criteria by promoting the survey.

Karen Lees, Programme Manager, Primary Care Pathways said: "Primary Care remains first point-of-contact for patients and we are therefore encouraging GPs and other primary care staff to encourage patients who have had a cancer diagnosis to fill in their surveys. It's important we get the best data available about how people feel about their treatment."

An updated communications toolkit is available on the NCPES website [Promoting the survey - National Cancer Patient Experience Survey](#), including key messages, posters, social media cards, and videos to make it easy to raise awareness.

This year, we are particularly focused on increasing survey uptake among diverse ethnic groups and communities. We are working with Hospital Trusts on a 12-week action plan to support this initiative. If you are interested in helping promote the survey and supporting this work, please contact kassandra.styche@nhs.net.

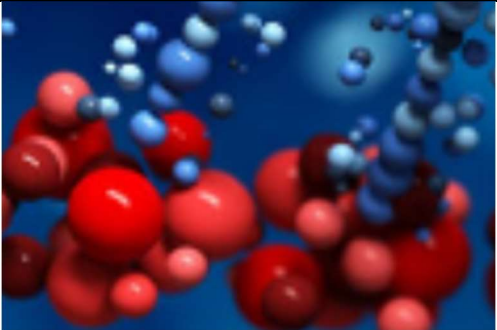
Your support will help ensure every patient's experience is heard, contributing to better cancer care for all.



Latest news	
Health and Justice UK Summit The West Midlands Cancer Alliance was proud to attend the Health and Justice UK Summit, where Health Inequalities Manager Kassie Styche (pictured left) joined colleagues Kelly Pritchard (centre) and Joanne O’Sullivan from the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust’s Living With and Beyond Cancer team to showcase the important work taking place across West Midlands prisons to support people affected by cancer and reduce health inequalities. The event provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the Alliance’s ongoing efforts within the criminal justice system while learning from partners across the country who are driving innovation and positive change in health and justice settings. It was truly inspiring to see such passion, collaboration, and commitment to ensuring healthcare is accessible and equitable for everyone — regardless of their circumstances. Following the success of our recent pilot at HMP Oakwood, the next steps will focus on rolling out Cancer Champion training to staff and prisoners across all 12 prisons in the West Midlands, helping to improve awareness, earlier presentation, and better outcomes for people in custody.	
Publication of Prehabilitation in Cancer: Clinical and Implementation Guidelines We’re pleased to announce the publication of Prehabilitation in Cancer: Clinical and Implementation Guidelines which were published on the Macmillan website at the end of October. You can find the document on the Prehabilitation resources for healthcare professionals section on the Macmillan Cancer Support website. A link taking you directly to the document is here. This Guidance and other useful resources that can support you in developing improvement plans for Prehabilitation are on the FutureNHS Workspace here. These guidelines: • provide updated, evidence-based recommendations on how best to design, develop and deliver prehabilitation before and during cancer treatment. • have been developed to support healthcare providers, commissioners, researchers and policy makers to guide pathway redesign, business cases and service delivery. • Are informed by a comprehensive literature review and expert consensus across six core areas: Prehabilitation implementation, Health economics, behaviour change and technology, nutrition, psychological support and exercise. • Include specific recommendations on screening, personalised support, group education and workforce aiming to ensure equity in access and outcomes. Please do share the guidelines widely within your organisation and networks and contact WMCA programme managers Sandra Smith and Joanna Fairhurst via rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net if you wish to discuss improving access to prehabilitation in your area.	
Mobile cervical cancer screening services launches in Birmingham	

A new mobile cervical cancer screening service funded by the West Midlands Cancer Alliance will soon be operating across Birmingham and Solihull. The new service will be showcased during a soft-launch event at Birmingham Central Mosque on Saturday November 29 from 12-30-5pm. This initiative is being delivered jointly with Dr Jessica Agarwal and colleagues at SmartCare PCN in Central Birmingham and The Birmingham and Solihull ICB Vaccination Service. It has been designed as an open-access model, enabling women from across the wider area to attend regardless of their registered practice. The service will operate every Tuesday and Thursday, with occasional Saturday sessions, with input from valued community partners whose insight and local reach will significantly support engagement, including: Partners include Sparkbrook Children's Zone, the Chinese Community Centre, Saheli Hub, Green Lane Mosque and WM Legacy. A newly designed leaflet includes QR codes linked to NHS screening videos to improve accessibility and patient understanding. By bringing screening closer to the community and directly into neighbourhoods, it is planned to improve access to screening and early diagnosis and help reduce the barriers.	
Initiative focuses on early detection in South Asian communities In a proactive effort to tackle cancer inequalities in Wolverhampton, NHS Black Country ICB has launched a community-led cancer awareness initiative to increase early detection and screening uptake — with a strong focus on reaching South Asian communities and other underserved groups. The initiative, led by Abda Aslam, Involvement Specialist for the Cancer Programme, centres on culturally sensitive engagement through targeted activities designed to build trust, dispel myths, and encourage proactive health behaviours. Three focus groups were held at key faith venues — the Sikh Temple, Mosque, and Hindu Temple — under the banner “Chai and Chat: Let’s Talk About Cancer.” These sessions provided safe spaces for open dialogue around cancer, revealing deep-rooted stigma, fear, and misconceptions. Participants shared personal experiences and highlighted barriers such as embarrassment, language challenges, and emotional overwhelm. The sessions also uncovered a strong appetite for more accessible, community-based education, with many calling for bilingual resources, interpreter support, and culturally relevant outreach. Abda collaborated with Channel 768 for a live Punjabi-language broadcast during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The channel can reach over 40,000 viewers across the UK and focused on early signs, screening options, and myth-busting. The response was immediate — with increased community enquiries, information requests, and referrals to local cancer services. A dedicated Cancer Awareness Stand has been deployed across GP practices and at libraries, fitness centres, community centres and markets, the University of Wolverhampton, and the Independent Living Centre, offering bilingual resources, interactive props, and clear messaging.	 The image shows two women sitting at a table in front of a large window with a cityscape view. They are looking at a brochure or document. At the bottom of the image, there is a banner that reads 'TO PARTICIPATE SHOW :9121 269 0064' and social media handles for @PBCUKOFFICIAL.

These community-based events have become trusted, familiar spaces where people feel comfortable asking questions and accessing information. Prominent local leaders, including NHS Black Country ICB Chief Executive Mark Axcell and Wolverhampton Councillor Obaida Ahmed, attended several events to show their support for this collaborative outreach. Early Impact has included increased confidence among attendees to access screening services, improved understanding of symptoms and early detection and clearer pathways to support and information The next phase will focus on continued community outreach through faith centres, women's groups, cultural networks, and local venues. There will also be targeted engagement with other underserved communities, including Eastern European and Black African populations, strengthening partnerships with GP practices, community organisations, and local authorities to increase screening uptake.	
Community Partnership in Action! At the West Midlands Cancer Alliance, we recognise the importance of meaningful community engagement and the incredible role that grassroots organisations play in improving health outcomes. We're proud to be working with Brushstrokes Community Project in Smethwick, one of our funded community co-production projects, as they launch their Cancer Awareness Project. Recently, the team delivered their first session at the West Plaza Hotel in West Bromwich, with around 73 participants taking part The session was a great success, combining health checks (blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring) with vital cancer awareness information. Together, discussed red flag symptoms of cancer, encouraged people to contact their GP if they notice any unusual changes, and promoted participation in national screening programmes for those eligible. This is a fantastic example of how partnership working can help break down barriers and ensure everyone has access to life-saving information and support.	
Continued progress on Life Science Hub Since the launch of the Midlands Cancer Alliances Life Science Hub in October 2025, there has been significant momentum in advancing cancer care across the region. Productive discussions have taken place with Pathway Programme leads and their clinical teams, fostering greater collaboration and engagement with industry partners and strategic stakeholders. The overarching goal remains clear: to unite efforts in shaping the future of cancer innovation and care throughout the West and East Midlands, with a strong focus on accelerating improvements in early diagnosis, treatment pathways, and patient experience. The key cancer pathways identified for targeted improvement include Breast, Skin, Colorectal, Urology, Lung, Gynaecology, and Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT). Dedicated development sessions have been scheduled, aiming to formalise collaborations that will drive a series of tumour site-specific projects.	

To date, project mandates have been established, with the Life Science Hub team now working closely alongside pathway leads to facilitate round table events. These bring together representatives from industry, pharmaceuticals, Medtech, and other partners to foster innovation and partnership. The first round of expressions of interest has now closed but the invitation to express interest remains open on an ongoing basis, allowing for the attraction of additional resources, expertise, and capacity from industry to support the acceleration of cancer pathways and achievement of cancer care targets. LinkedIn continues to be a key channel for communication. We encourage you to connect, network, and stay informed about the latest developments as we work together to transform cancer care in the Midlands.	
Education event highlights best practice The HPB EAG and Education Event held on 6th November at Birmingham Central Library was a great success, with strong engagement throughout the day. Highlights included Professor Shahid Khad's insightful talk on national variations in cholangiocarcinoma's, an informative session from Pancreatic Cancer UK emphasising the importance of the Optimal Care Pathway and collaborative working, a best practice presentation on fast-tracking HPB patients, and valuable updates on the liver surveillance programme. The event also included discussion on the GIRFT recommendations, highlighting opportunities to strengthen HPB services. The day reflected WMCA's commitment to enhancing services across the West Midlands, with a clear focus on early diagnosis, treatment, and patient care.	
Updated Inter Provider Transfer of Care Allocation Policy The new West Midlands Cancer Alliance Inter Provider Transfer of Care Allocation Policy has been ratified by the Clinical Cabinet. National Breach Allocation Guidance) was first published in April 2016, aiming to provide a fairer method of cancer breach allocation when treatment is delayed between referring and treating providers. The policy has been updated in 2025 with the input of Cancer Trust Managers and Lead Nurses to reflect the changes to the national guidance. The policy is published on the West Midlands Cancer Alliance website and has been endorsed by the West Midlands Cancer Alliance Board.	
Innovative Treatments Team needs your help NHS England's Innovative Treatments Team are reaching out to invite input on a scope which will help them to develop a national operational framework on the future use of individualised genetic therapies within the NHS in England. 2511 individualised scope for engagement FINAL.pdf They are particularly keen to hear from patients, carers, clinicians, service providers, and others with an interest in rare disease, genomic medicine and gene therapies. Individualised genetic therapies are personalised medicines for patients with a rare disease that has an underlying genetic cause. In England's Rare Disease Action Plan for 2025/26, NHS England committed to explore the development of a highly specialised service operational framework to support the	

future delivery of individualised therapies to patients within an NHS setting, essentially detailing what needs to be in place when commissioning and providing an NHS service. The planned output will be a national operating framework, setting out how individualised genetic therapies can be delivered to patients within NHS settings, initially under pilot arrangements, where funding has been made available from outside of the NHS. Please share your feedback on the proposed scope via this form. Stakeholder testing: NHS England scope for individualised genetic therapies – Fill in form Your feedback on this scope will help them to develop a framework which is practical, inclusive and reflects the needs and experiences of those it aims to benefit. They welcome comments from individuals, or on behalf of an organisation. Please share this engagement opportunity with others who may wish to comment. The deadline for receipt of comments is Wednesday 7th January at 5pm. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Innovative Treatments Team at england.innovativetreatments@nhs.net Many thanks in advance for your time and valuable insights.	
What's happening?	
Shantanu Rout among speakers at the Future of Surgery Show 2026 Shantanu Rout, WMCA's EAG Chair and Clinical Pathway Improvement Lead is to be a guest speaker at The Future of Surgery Show 2026. The show, organised by the Institute of Government and Public Policy, takes place at Edgbaston Stadium on Tuesday January 20. The show will bring together the UK's leading surgeons, policymakers, innovators, and industry partners who are at the heart of rethinking surgical services. They will also explore the latest technologies, share insights with those shaping the operating theatres of tomorrow, and contribute to building a surgical future that is smarter, greener, safer, and more equitable. Entrance is free for NHS staff who book with the code SR-FOS. You can book tickets on the IGPP website.	 I'm speaking at.. The Future of Surgery Show 2026 EDGBASTON STADIUM, BIRMINGHAM 20 JANUARY 2026 SHANTANU ROUT Get a FREE ticket with my code SR-FOS To book your place visit www.igpp.org.uk *For Public and Voluntary sector, part-funded rates available for Private sector IGPP Institute of Government & Public Policy
Cancer training for general practice nurses in Coventry and Warwickshire The Coventry and Warwickshire ICB System Cancer Team would like to invite General Practice Nurses from across the West Midlands who will be undertaking Cancer Care Reviews (CCRs) to attend a 2-day training session. It's an opportunity to enhance knowledge, skills and confidence around cancer as a long term condition. There will be supporting training to provide Cancer Care Reviews (CCRs) to support people affected by cancer in their practice, and act as a catalyst for the practice to provide better support to cancer patients, to improve your confidence and knowledge to signpost patients with cancer to appropriate resources	 Coventry and Warwickshire Training Hub

Sessions are virtual and take place on Monday January 26 and Monday February 2.																	
You can contact cwtraininghub.co.uk																	
National Webinar on Improving Physical Activity in Cancer – Change of Date																	
Thank you to those of you who have registered for the National LWBC Webinar on Improving Physical Activity in Cancer at low cost. Due to unforeseen circumstances the date has been changed from Tuesday 2 December 2025 to Wednesday 14 January 2026 2.00 – 3.30pm. Please be advised as you have already registered there is no need to re-register for the new date. The National Team will be sending out the Teams joining link in the new year. If you have not yet registered and still wish to do so, the registration link is here: HERE																	
Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan webinar																	
The Ethnicity Recording Improvement Plan aims to strengthen the quality, consistency and completeness of ethnicity data across the NHS. You can join a webinar taking place Tuesday 2 December 2025 from 2.00 pm - 3.30pm. Please click here to register																	
NHSE & CRUK webinar: Inequalities in bowel cancer screening																	
To hear more about inequalities in bowel cancer screening and how our Bowel Grid tool can help, sign up to our webinar with NHS England on Monday 8th December, 10am-11am (a recording will also be available on this link). Read more and sign up here.																	
Upcoming events																	
Upcoming Expert Advisory Group (EAG) meetings																	
Expert Advisory Groups (EAGs) provide specialist advice and guidance to the WMCA board on the standards of cancer care for patient, reflecting ‘Improving Outcomes Guidance’ recommendations, current best practice and opportunities for development. Please see the below details of upcoming EAG meetings: <table><tr><td>Dec 2</td><td>Urology</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 2</td><td>MSCC, AO and CUP</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 3</td><td>Teenage and Young Adult</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 3</td><td>Children's & Young People's</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 4</td><td>Upper GI</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 9</td><td>EAG Chairs, Deputies and Clinical Pathway Leads</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 10</td><td>LGI Colorectal</td></tr><tr><td>Dec 12</td><td>Radiotherapy</td></tr></table> Please note that these meetings are for EAG Members only. For more information about joining these meetings, please email: rwh-tr.wmcanceralliance@nhs.net. *Please note that dates are correct at time of publication		Dec 2	Urology	Dec 2	MSCC, AO and CUP	Dec 3	Teenage and Young Adult	Dec 3	Children's & Young People's	Dec 4	Upper GI	Dec 9	EAG Chairs, Deputies and Clinical Pathway Leads	Dec 10	LGI Colorectal	Dec 12	Radiotherapy
Dec 2	Urology																
Dec 2	MSCC, AO and CUP																
Dec 3	Teenage and Young Adult																
Dec 3	Children's & Young People's																
Dec 4	Upper GI																
Dec 9	EAG Chairs, Deputies and Clinical Pathway Leads																
Dec 10	LGI Colorectal																
Dec 12	Radiotherapy																
																	
Development opportunities and additional learning																	
Check out our new Cancer Academy																	

Our Cancer Academy is a centralised platform designed to support lifelong learning for our current, and future, cancer workforce. Designed for our entire cancer workforce, our courses and extensive resources are aimed at enhancing your knowledge and helping you stay skilled and up to date in all thing's cancer care. Upcoming training can be found here. Principles of Cancer Care Programme (PCCP): January-March 2026 The Principles of Cancer Care Programme (PCCP) is a fully funded national 4-day course delivered on Teams by Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance. (please use the link above for more details) Boosting Capacity in your Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Service- 12th December 2025 This study day will provide you with the elements necessary to create an action plan and start tackling your demand pressures head on. (please use the link above for more details) Improving Physical Activity in Cancer at low cost- 14th January 2026 The Living With and Beyond Cancer team are holding a share and learn webinar on Improving Physical Activity in Cancer on 14th January 2026, 2.00 – 3.30pm. Join us to learn more about charities' physical activity offers for people affected by cancer, and staff training/education on physical activity. (please use the link above for more details)	
Vacancies	
An exciting job opportunity has come up with Prostate Cancer UK! (closing date Sunday December 7) The West Midlands Cancer Alliance is collaborating with Prostate Cancer UK on the Black Health Equity Model pilot, with the Alliance selected as a pilot site for a project to support the Black Equity Health Strategy. 🔗 Job link: https://prostatecanceruk.ciphr-irecruit.com/Applicants/vacancy/5957/Black-Health-Equity-Programme-Manager The Black Health Equity Programme Manager is a critical role within the Black Health Equity team, responsible for coordinating the delivery of our new Black Health Equity Strategy 2025–30. The Programme Manager will lead cross-functional coordination, manage stakeholder relationships, and oversee the measurement and reporting of impact across all areas of the strategy. This role is pivotal in driving forward the three core missions of the Black Health Equity Strategy: • Mission 1: Black men diagnosed early • Mission 2: Eradicate treatment disparity • Mission 3: Support is personalised, culturally informed, and improves quality of life For more information please contact. Keith Morgan (He/Him) Associate Director of Black Health Equity 020 3310 7260 Book time with Keith Morgan	
WMCA Expert Advisory Group (EAG) recruitment: The West Midlands Cancer Alliance are currently recruiting to vacancies for a number of Expert Advisory Groups (EAG's). See the full list of vacancies here. We are looking for candidates based on the following criteria: • Ability to deliver national and regional work programme obligations. • Demonstrable collaborative working with West Midlands Cancer Alliance. • Experience with service change at scale. • Credibility as a Cancer specialist in the West Midlands region. • Regular attendance at EAGs or member of a Task and Finish group. • Must be a current member of the West Midlands EAG group. Candidates are asked to send their expressions of interest forms via email with accompanying CVs, stating why you would like to apply for this post, what you can bring to the post and your relevant experience for the role of Chair / Deputy Chair for the EAG to the following email: angela.gould1@nhs.net.	

Become a patient advocate If you have any patients who may be interested in becoming a patient advocate or would like to find out further information, please contact the WMCA on rwh-tr.wmcapmo@nhs.net.	
External newsletters	
Please find a list of external newsletters you may be interested in accessing: • Read the latest East Midlands Cancer Alliance (EMCA) newsletter here • Read the West Midlands Imaging Network’s weekly round up here • Read the Central and South Genomics newsletter here • Request to join the Midlands Outpatient Transformation Programme workspace here • Sign up to the West Midlands Radiotherapy Network’s quarterly newsletter here • Sign up to Cancer Research UK’s Health Systems email updates here.	