

Wessex Cancer Alliance Patient and Public Steering Group and Network Impact Summary: October- December 2025



Wessex Cancer Alliance commissions Involving People at Help & Care to involve volunteers with lived experience in the work of the Alliance. We do this through our Steering Group, Network and Reader Panel, acting as a critical friend to ensure patient and public involvement is effective.

In our November Steering Group meeting we:

- Discussed the difference patient voice makes to the work of the Alliance.
- Heard an update on recent Alliance activity and opportunities for the Steering Group to get involved.
- Discussed NCPES priorities for the coming year.

A spotlight on our Reader Panel



This quarter we received some great feedback about the impact of our Reader Panel. The Panel had recently reviewed a text message about Cervical Screening. A report evidenced that 9% of patients who had never previously attended cervical screening, were successfully screened after receiving this text message. A real testament to the difference our Panel are making, ensuring public facing information is accessible and understandable.

Snapshot of volunteer activity this quarter

- Our reader panel reviewed 3 pieces of information: Mouth and Throat Cancer pages on Cancer Matters Wessex, a breast pain clinic leaflet for University Hospitals Dorset and a funding bid.
- Several volunteers attended a caregivers focus group, generating a report about what worked well, what didn't, and what would make the biggest difference to carers in the future - read the report [here](#).
- Volunteers attended an in person workshop with Southampton Clinical Trials Unit exploring the use of AI in cancer treatment.
- Attended an online focus group to support the new online support tool for living with and beyond cancer.

2 new volunteers joined our Steering Group this quarter, taking our total to 10. 2 new people joined our Reader Panel, making 17 in total. There are 35 volunteers on our Network with 1 new person joining this quarter.

Thank you all - as ever really appreciate your time and insights... you are so kind to help us and make a real difference.

- Sally Rickard, Director Wessex Cancer Alliance



Plans for the next quarter:

- Get together for our next in person away day.
- Our reader panel are supporting the Alliance with the development of an online support tool for living with and beyond cancer.

A partnership between Involving People
and Wessex Cancer Alliance

 involving
people


Wessex
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