

Wessex Cancer Alliance Patient and Public Steering Group and Network Impact Summary: January - March 2026



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.

At our January Steering Group meeting:

- The Alliance Personalised Care lead shared an update about 'Care Closer to Home' and how lived experience will influence this.
- We heard about an assessment tool being developed in partnership with Southampton University for cancer care and support and opportunities for lived experience involvement.

We had a great Away Day in March with volunteers from our Steering Group and Network, and staff from the Alliance / Help & Care. We talked about our local ambitions for the National Cancer Plan, shared highlights and challenges from the last year and talked about how we could diversify the group. We had a presentation about Clinical Trials, and from Digital Communications at the Alliance about how feedback from volunteers has influenced key changes to the Cancer Matters Wessex website. We are looking forward to our next away day in September!



Plans for the next quarter:

- Succession planning for the Steering Group.
- Taking forward discussions from the Away Day around how we diversify and grow the group.

Snapshot of volunteer activity this quarter

- Our reader panel reviewed 2 pieces of information: the proposed text for the online living with cancer and beyond resource and an article on cancer and the menopause.
- Volunteers were invited to review the 'CAN-Empower' resource - many have been involved with this from the start.
- A member of our Steering Group recorded a podcast sharing reflections of the National Cancer plan from a patient perspective. Listen to it [here](#).
- Several of our volunteers have been in continued discussion about content for the new online resource being developed.

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

NEWS

We now have an online area for training for our volunteers. This is based on what the group felt would be useful, including Cancer Awareness, Communication Skills, Understanding the NHS and Wellbeing.

A partnership between Involving People
and Wessex Cancer Alliance

