

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance hosts exceptional 2024 annual conference

Attendees have declared Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance's annual conference an overwhelming success - with descriptions of "exceptional", "a triumph" and "inspiring speeches and passion from people working in cancer services" among the ringing endorsements.

Surveyed delegates gave the conference, held on Thursday 19th September at Lakeside Conference Centre, York Biotech Campus, an average rating of five out of five stars, with people particularly impressed by the keynote speech from Dr Lennard Lee about the UK's cancer vaccine advance.

More than 215 people attended the conference, including stakeholders from primary and secondary care, NHS England, patient representatives, cancer charities, and third-party organisations, which celebrated the work that takes place across the Humber and North Yorkshire region to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and care of cancer patients.

In the morning, Simon Morritt, Chair of Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance; Lucy Turner, Managing Director of the Cancer Alliance; and Kartikae Grover, Clinical Director of the Cancer Alliance, welcomed delegates and showcased the Cancer Alliance's work over the past 12 months.

Then, there was a showing of KPOW! (Know the Power of Words), a short film that was co-funded by the Cancer Alliance and Macmillan Cancer Support, about the importance of language used by clinicians towards cancer patients during the diagnosis of cancer and cancer treatment. You can view KPOW! on the Cancer Alliance's YouTube channel, [here](#).

This was followed by David Fitzgerald, Director – Policy and Strategy, NHS Cancer Programme, who presented an interesting overview of the progress made on the NHS Long Term Plan for cancer. Following this, delegates took part in breakout sessions by assorted facilitators, including programme leads within the Cancer Alliance

In the afternoon, Dr Lennard Lee, the national lead for the UK cancer vaccine advance, explained why the oncology community is embracing the UK cancer vaccine advance. Coming on the heels of the release of the Darzi report, Dr Lee's speech was optimistic, upbeat and very warmly received by the captivated audience.

An enlightening and thought-provoking day was rounded-up in upbeat fashion with the Cancer Alliance's inaugural Excellence In Cancer award ceremony. The awards were launched in June to celebrate the people working in cancer services in Humber and North Yorkshire and thank them for their hard work, innovation and unwavering commitment.

A total of 55 nominations were received in the four award categories, which were Going the Extra Mile, Quality Improvement and Innovation, Clinical Leadership, and Championing the Patient Voice. The winners of each award, plus the highly commended nominees in each category, are available to view on our website here.

Lucy said: "The whole Cancer Alliance team is buzzing from the afterglow of our biggest and best conference yet. The hard work continues when it comes to improving cancer care, but it was thrilling to be able to recognise our achievements over the past year, and to look forward to what the future holds.

"Dr Lennard Lee's speech was so inspiring, and it was a joy to hear members of the audience celebrating when their colleagues won our first-ever Excellence In Cancer awards.

"Our annual conference goes from strength to strength and we're already making plans for the 2025 instalment, so watch this space."



Humber and North Yorkshire cancer patients to trial personalised cancer vaccines



Cancer Alliance News

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is pleased to announce that NHS Humber Health Partnership is to take part in the colorectal cancer vaccine trial (BNT122-01).

Specialist cancer teams at Castle Hill Hospital in Cottingham will soon offer fast-tracked access to a personalised cancer vaccine for a small number of eligible patients.

Personalised cancer vaccines work by preparing a person's immune system to recognise and destroy cancer cells and reduce the risk of the disease returning.

In May, NHS England announced the launch of the NHS Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad which, through a series of trials, will provide up to 10,000 patients in the UK with personalised cancer treatments by 2030. At the time, around 30 hospital trusts in England had signed up to the launch pad.

People with cancer who are receiving NHS treatment in England can be assessed to see if they might be eligible to join a cancer vaccine clinical trial, and then referred to a hospital that is running a trial. If you are eligible for the trial your clinical team will invite you to take part.

As part of the colorectal cancer vaccine trial, sponsored by BioNTech SE, the Trust will initially offer personalised cancer vaccines to people from across the Humber and North Yorkshire region with colorectal cancer. This is a fast-developing field of research and it is likely vaccine trials for other cancers will become available.

Dr Kartikae Grover, Clinical Director, Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, said: "The creation of the national cancer vaccine launch pad to offer personalised cancer vaccines to people diagnosed with cancer could certainly be a landmark moment in the fight against cancer.

"It is pleasing that some cancer patients in Humber and North Yorkshire will be able to take part in the personalised cancer vaccine trial, which may help to reduce a patient's risk of their cancer returning."

Dr Rajarshi Roy, Consultant Clinical Oncologist, at NHS Humber Health Partnership, said: "It is amazing for us to have been selected as a trial site for the colorectal cancer vaccine trial and for us to also be one of the Cancer Vaccine Launch Pad sites, so that we might be able to offer personalised cancer vaccines to people in our region."

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance pays tribute to patient representative Allyson Kent

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance was deeply saddened to learn that patient representative Allyson Kent passed away on Saturday 19th October.

Allyson, a former NHS worker who lived in the East Riding of Yorkshire, was a much-loved and valued member of the Cancer Alliance patient and public representative group.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2019, and ovarian cancer in 2020, becoming a Cancer Alliance patient representative in 2022.

Allyson touched the hearts of everyone in the Cancer Alliance. Her strength, positivity and resilience during her cancer diagnoses and treatment were an inspiration to the team.

She was a strong advocate for the importance of being active when living with cancer. As a keen runner and walker, Allyson helped bring Move with Cancer's 5k Your Way to Beverley parkrun in 2022.

Even after her last cancer diagnosis earlier this year, she took part in Yorkshire Cancer Research's We Walk for Yorkshire walking challenge in May.

In 2023, Allyson's experiences of cancer formed an integral part of the film, KPOW! (Know the Power of Words), in which she also stars. The Cancer Alliance and Macmillan Cancer Support will continue to promote Allyson's legacy, as was her wish.

The Cancer Alliance wishes to express its condolences to Allyson's husband, Garry, and their daughter, Megan, during this difficult time.

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Cancer Alliance staff spotlight



In this edition, we shine the staff spotlight on Clare Hutton, Radiotherapy Manager at the Queen's Centre, Castle Hill Hospital.

Clare qualified as a therapeutic radiographer in 2000 following her training at the Princess Royal Hospital. Following a short six months working in London after qualification, she has spent the entirety of her career working in Hull.

Radiotherapy is a key treatment in a patient's cancer pathway. One-in-two patients require radiotherapy as part of their treatment pathway, and it cures 40% of cancers.

Radiotherapy technology and techniques continuously develop, and the team treats over 3000 patients a year from the Humber and Yorkshire region.

What is your Cancer Alliance role and what does it entail?

My role as the professional lead for therapeutic radiography is to set the strategic direction for the service alongside the lead clinical oncologist and head of radiotherapy physics, locally, regionally and nationally.

I have recently also become a member of the Radiotherapy Advisory Group - a team of therapeutic radiographers contributing to the national direction of the profession.

In recent years, my main priority has been to ensure the service has the right staff, with the right skills at the right time.

What attracted you to the role?

I always knew I wanted to be a therapeutic radiographer. A significant amount of my career was spent in a clinical role providing direct care to patients receiving radiotherapy.

However, for the last 12 years I've taken on a more strategic leadership role, which now requires me to set the future direction for the service.

What do you see as the main challenges?

Workforce is a key challenge, with a national shortage of therapeutic radiographers of 8%. Alongside this, a continued increase in people being diagnosed with cancer, plus people living longer, mean the demand on all cancer services will continue to increase. The key is to keep promoting and attracting people to the profession.

What are you looking forward to most in the near future?

There are two aspects I'm looking forward to. Firstly, the recent implementation of a technology called Surface Guided Radiotherapy (SGRT) which has been a fantastic addition to the aid of patient positioning and monitoring.

The second aspect will be to see our first two apprentices qualify in March. Jenna and Poppy are two of the first small cohort of therapeutic radiographer apprentices nationally, and it will be exciting to see how this new route into the profession contributes positively to the future of the workforce.

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance plays a super-sized board game for Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance and its partners spent October campaigning for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The Cancer Alliance turned heads across the region with a super-sized version of Snakes and Ladders. People learnt about the barriers and facilitators to attending an NHS breast screening appointment, and conversations were sparked addressing the fears surrounding breast cancer.

The game was created in partnership with researcher Emily Lunn from Hull York Medical School (HYMS) and received funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, killing around 11,400 women and 85 men every year. Survival for breast cancer is generally good, if diagnosed early.

However, 46.3% of women invited for a mammogram for the first time do not attend a screening appointment.

By working with breast screening teams, the Cancer Alliance identified that many women due a screening appointment are so busy caring for others, they are at risk of neglecting their own bodies.

Elsewhere, the Cancer Alliance provided a bumper package of photo and video content. There were interviews and bitesize advice clips with former patients, clinicians, and social media posts using the hashtag #getintouchwithyourself.

Earned media coverage included a BBC News article on the board game, TV coverage from ITV Calendar and radio interviews with Hits and Greatest Hits.





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Cancer Alliance Cancer Innovation Grants scheme to reopen

Following the success of the Cancer Innovation Grants scheme in 2024, the Cancer Alliance plans to run the scheme for a second year, welcoming applications for innovation and research projects (subject to confirmation of funding by NHSE).

The Cancer Alliance was able to fund 12 successful projects, including the Selby Cancer Cafe, announced in August.

Watch this space and our website for details of next year's scheme.

Humber Teaching NHS Trust wins grant for specialist nurse to support patients with learning difficulties

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance has awarded Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust one of its first ever Cancer Innovation Grants. This was made possible through a joint bid alongside NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Bridlington Primary Care Network (PCN).

This grant will enable the Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust to provide specialist support for people with learning disabilities, to improve access and engagement with crucial cancer screening programmes.

Patients with learning disabilities are less likely to attend or take up appointments for vital checks, putting them at greater risk of poor health and negative outcomes.

As such, Bridlington and Goole have been identified as areas within the Trust's geography that suffer from deprivation. The Cancer Innovation Grant will put in place a specialist Learning Disabilities nurse role to foster better engagement with multiple health services, as well as create paid roles for experts by experience.

Humber and North Yorkshire ICB East Riding Place said "This grant will allow us to take a significant step forward in addressing some of the health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities. By introducing a dedicated Learning Disabilities Nurse and creating paid roles for experts with lived experience, we can ensure that support is specialist and meets the needs of the communities we serve."



Cancer Alliance News

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance launches regional cancer awareness study

More than 5,600 people in Humber and North Yorkshire are being invited to share their attitudes, awareness and understanding of cancer, in a survey carried out by York St John University on behalf of the Cancer Alliance across the region.

According to the Office for National Statistics, the overall Yorkshire and Humber area has a standardised cancer incidence rate of 617 people diagnosed per 100,000 people – a rate significantly higher than the England average. The objectives of the cancer awareness (CAM) survey are to:

- Measure the public's awareness of the symptoms and risk factors of cancer as well as the barriers to seeking help

- Gain a deeper understanding and insight of cancer awareness within the region's differing communities and populations
- Benchmark the region's varied populations in terms of their cancer awareness and understanding of symptoms

Lucy Turner, Managing Director, Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, said: "Humber and North Yorkshire is an area with a diverse geography and significant variance in cancer diagnosis between different population groups. Understanding the challenges and barriers to early diagnosis within all the communities in the region in an inclusive way is a key priority."

"We intend to use the findings and learnings from the survey to inform and direct both internal strategic plans and interventions but also the potential to contribute to NHS providers' thinking for future planning of cancer services."

The survey can be found [here](#), and the results are due to be published in March next year.



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