

## I'm looking forward to working with colleagues across the regional health and care system to address the issues affecting our cancer patients in Humber and North Yorkshire. A welcome word from Lucy Turner

**Hello, I'm Lucy Turner, the newly appointed Managing Director of the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance.**

**I'm looking forward to re-joining you from 1st January 2023, having previously served as Programme Director in 2019.**

Cancer is such an evocative word because, according to Cancer Research UK, **one in two people in the UK will develop cancer in their lifetime**, while many more will be indirectly affected by supporting their friends and family after they receive a diagnosis.

Cancer affects everybody in one way or another and no two cancer patient's experiences or stories are the same. So, while the Cancer Alliance and cancer service providers are understandably judged on the data, it is important not to view these figures in isolation.

We must always remember that there is a real person, often with a family behind every cancer diagnosis. I know this at first hand having lost a life-long friend to cancer before the pandemic.

Gary was able to spend his final few weeks the way he chose, at home with his family and friends around him including his brass band mates playing his favourite tunes on the driveway.

At the end of the day, we all joined the NHS to help improve outcomes for patients, something I have always been passionate about. This is why the Cancer Alliance has renewed its commitment to ensuring that the voice of people who are affected by cancer are at the heart of service improvements.

Cancer Alliance colleagues are working with our patient and public representative group to review and refresh our approach to engagement and involvement of these individuals in the work that the Cancer Alliance carries out. More news on this to come over the next few months.



NHS Chief Executive, Amanda Pritchard, in her **winter resilience plan update** highlighted positive news for cancer referral, detection and treatments, with figures for all rising following the impact of COVID-19. That is encouraging news but it's important to note that cancer services are under a great deal of pressure across our region, as well as the rest of the country.

This winter promises to be one of the most challenging, if not the most challenging, winters on record for the NHS. We will have to work hard, collectively, to continue to recover and sustain our cancer services and address the issues affecting our cancer patients in Humber and North Yorkshire.

Whilst there are many challenges to address, particularly around cancer waiting times, there are many exciting projects being delivered to help improve earlier diagnosis and outcomes for cancer patients in our region.

The Cancer Alliance's mission remains to transform the diagnosis, treatment and care for cancer patients in the Humber and North Yorkshire area. That is my commitment to the memory of my friend Gary as well as all our patients and service users.

## Professor Stephen Eames CBE takes up role as new chair of the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance



Cancer Alliance News

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is pleased to announce that Stephen Eames CBE has been appointed as its new Chair.

Stephen succeeds Phil Mettam as Chair of the Cancer Alliance, a position he has held since 2019.

Phil has taken up a role to provide support and oversight to the [Humber Acute Services Programme](#) and associated developments.

Stephen chaired his first Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance System Board meeting on 12th December and will officially take up the role from 1st January 2023.

He will combine the role while serving as Chief Executive of the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

As Chair, Stephen will oversee the work of the Cancer Alliance and provide leadership on the key issues affecting cancer services in the Humber and North Yorkshire area.

Stephen Eames said: "I am pleased to be joining the Cancer Alliance as Chair. Cancer services in Humber and North Yorkshire are under significant pressure, just as they are elsewhere in the country.

"I am looking forward to working with partners within the Cancer Alliance to develop innovative solutions to address these issues."

Phil Mettam said: "My time as Chair of the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance has been extremely rewarding. I wish Stephen well in the role and I am sure he will be an asset to the Cancer Alliance.

"I would like to thank colleagues within the Cancer Alliance who have worked tirelessly to provide the best possible care for cancer patients in what has been extremely challenging circumstances in recent years."

For more information about the work of the Cancer Alliance please visit the [Cancer Alliance website](#).



Outgoing Cancer Alliance Chair,  
**Phil Mettam**

Cancer Champions training gave me the confidence to book my screening - Syeda's story

Syeda first heard about the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance Cancer Champions training following a presentation to a local community group.

Having sadly lost her aunt to lung cancer and previously being fearful of screening programmes, Syeda was keen to learn more about cancer. So, she decided to sign up to take part in one of the Cancer Alliance's [Cancer Champions training sessions](#).

Syeda explained: "I had spoken to my GP about cervical screening, but I was put off by the terminology used and didn't fully understand the procedure, so I avoided going for my screening when I was invited.

"After attending the Cancer Champions training and watching the Cancer Research UK video about screening everything felt so much clearer. Things were explained really simply, and it gave me the confidence to book a screening appointment.

"I now feel much less fearful, and I would encourage anyone to take up screening appointments when offered as early detection can make a big difference."



Awareness and Early Diagnosis

## Cancer Alliance staff spotlight



Cancer Alliance News

### A warm welcome to Laura Milburn who is joining the Cancer Alliance as Deputy Managing Director in January 2023.

Laura has worked for the NHS for 20 years, the last five of which have been in management roles in cancer services. She joins the Cancer Alliance from York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, where she holds the role of Deputy Associate Chief Operating Officer and Head of Cancer.

Laura said: "I am privileged to have worked with some great cancer teams on some amazing projects over the last few years. I am very excited to continue this journey with the Cancer Alliance and improve cancer services and outcomes for local people."

#### What's your new role in the Cancer Alliance and what does it entail?

I am joining the Cancer Alliance senior management team on secondment for 12 months and my role will involve using my cancer management expertise to support the senior management team in the delivery of **its key workstreams**.

#### What attracted you to the role?

I am passionate about improving cancer services and in my acute trust roles I have worked with both patients and staff to influence service change and improvement. This role provides an opportunity to do the same across the wider healthcare system.

I want to share my knowledge and experience, and work with colleagues to deliver innovation and best practice in cancer services and to support the Cancer Alliance mission of Achieving World Class Cancer Outcomes for our Communities.

#### What do you see as the main challenges you'll face in the role?

I think the biggest challenges will be funding, workforce and the ever increasing demand for cancer services.

The need to make savings, whilst trying to reduce backlogs, along with a reduction in those choosing to stay with or join the NHS has created a perfect storm - one that will need courage, innovation, and transformational change to resolve.

The NHS is my family and I am committed to supporting its recovery and the change needed to become the NHS we need right now.

#### What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

I am looking forward to getting to know the Cancer Alliance team better and working with colleagues across the healthcare system who share the same passion I have for improving cancer services. Together, we can make a valuable contribution to achieving the national cancer ambitions for patients in our community.

## Spotlight on: Brigg Pancreatic Cancer Group

During November people came together to raise awareness of pancreatic cancer as part of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month, including Andrew Markham, from North Lincolnshire, who lost his good friend, Howard, to the disease in 2014.

Up until Howard's illness Andrew did not know much about Pancreatic Cancer, but after losing his friend, Andrew wanted to raise awareness of the disease.

Along with Zoe Hall and Lesley Whitehand, who also lost relatives to pancreatic cancer, Andrew formed Brigg Pancreatic Cancer Group to raise awareness and fundraise. They are now a regular feature at Brigg Farmers' Market with an information stall and have raised over £25,000 for the charity, Pancreatic Cancer Action, through cycle rides, football matches and collections. They have also received a community award from Brigg Town Council for their work.

Andrew said: "It is important to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of pancreatic cancer. Early diagnosis is so vital, and we are determined to keep spreading the word in the hope that it will make a difference and save lives."



Cancer Support Groups

To find out more about Brigg Pancreatic Cancer Group or to get involved email:

[sassmo1957@talktalk.net](mailto:sassmo1957@talktalk.net). For more information on Pancreatic Cancer visit the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk).





Patient Experience

## Survey results highlight children's cancer care experience

The 2021 Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey (U16 CPES) results have been published. The survey measures experiences of tumour and cancer care for children aged 8-15 at the point of discharge, and parents and carers of children aged up to 15. You can view the results on the [Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey website](#).

## Macmillan Cancer Support and Self-Help UK join forces to improve cancer support for deaf people

There are 11 million people in the UK who are deaf or hard of hearing, and one in two people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. That is why Macmillan Cancer Support and Self-Help UK have joined forces to launch the Macmillan Deaf Cancer Support Project to improve support for deaf people living with cancer.

Being diagnosed with cancer can be a frightening experience, but for many deaf people, living with cancer can present additional challenges. The pandemic highlighted many barriers for the deaf community, for example there not being information in British Sign Language (BSL) readily available and a lack of interpreters at medical appointments.



The Macmillan Deaf Cancer Support Project will offer virtual one-on-one emotional and practical support in British Sign Language (BSL). Trained deaf volunteers will be available to support people in a range of ways that suit them, from videocall and email to WhatsApp.

The two-year pilot will also support carers, including deaf people who are supporting a hearing person with cancer.

Additionally, it will help to empower deaf people by enabling them to share their experiences and help each other by creating and supporting new and existing deaf peer support groups.

To find out more about the new project and access cancer support in BSL visit [the Self Help UK website](#). [www.selfhelp.org.uk/deafcancersupport](http://www.selfhelp.org.uk/deafcancersupport)

## Patients in Grimsby to benefit from new machine to detect prostate cancer



Patients undergoing tests for prostate cancer at Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby, are benefitting from an innovative new £76,000 fusion biopsy machine.

The machine uses a special ultrasound probe that displays an image of the prostate on the screen, allowing for a more accurate biopsy and precise diagnosis.

The procedure is known as a transperineal biopsy. Thanks to its accuracy, it reduces the risk of infection and the need for patients to have antibiotics afterwards.

Consultant Urologist at the hospital, Mr Mathew Thomas, said: "The urology team is very excited about this new piece of equipment which has kindly been bought for us by the hospital's charity, the Health Tree Foundation.

"As well as allowing more accurate collection of cells, the machine also helps to map the location and extent of any cancer and improves our ability to detect small cancers."

Heath Tree Foundation Charity Manager, Lucy Skipworth, said: "It is thanks to the generosity of those members of the public who support our charity that we have been able to buy this amazing new piece of kit.

"A big thank you also needs to go to the volunteers at the Sea View Cancer Charity Shop in Cleethorpes, as they also raised money for the machine."

The fusion biopsy machine is the latest investment from Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust to improve outcomes for cancer patients and will benefit approximately 230 patients per year.