

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance pleased to announce the appointment of Simon Morritt as Chair, replacing Stephen Eames CBE

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is pleased to announce the appointment of Simon Morritt as its new Chair.

Simon takes up the role immediately and will manage his Cancer Alliance responsibilities alongside his day-to-day duties as Chief Executive of York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

He succeeds Stephen Eames CBE as Chair of the Cancer Alliance.

Stephen has served as the Cancer Alliance's Chair since the start of this year alongside his role as Chief Executive of the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.

As Chair, Simon 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.

He will chair the Cancer Alliance's monthly System Board meetings.

Simon has served as Chief Executive of York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust since 2019. Prior to that, Simon was Chief Executive of Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

He has more than 30 years' experience in the NHS, which he joined in September 1989 as a general management trainee in Greater Manchester.

After roles across Yorkshire, Simon went on to be successful in a number of senior positions.

His first Chief Executive post was for the Doncaster Central Primary Care Trust in October 2000 and he was appointed Chief Executive of the former Bradford and Airedale Teaching Primary Care Trust in October 2006.

Following his time in commissioning organisations he became Chief Executive of Sheffield Children's Hospital.

Commenting on his appointment, Simon said: "I am pleased to join the Cancer Alliance as Chair.

"I am really looking forward to working with a wide variety of people across the Cancer Alliance to improve outcomes for cancer patients and their families.

"There's plenty of work to do to address the issues affecting cancer services in our area and I'm looking forward to working in partnership to find innovative ways to overcome these issues."

Lucy Turner, Managing Director of the Cancer Alliance, added: "We are delighted to welcome Simon to the Cancer Alliance as our new Chair.

"As Chief Executive of one of the trusts responsible for providing cancer services in Humber and North Yorkshire, he will bring fresh impetus to the Cancer Alliance as it continues its mission to transform the diagnosis, treatment and care for cancer patients in our area.

"I also want to thank Stephen Eames for his contributions to the Cancer Alliance over the past 12 months."

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

To find out more about Simon's role at York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust visit [their website](#).



Cancer Alliance News

Simon Morritt
Chair
Humber and North Yorkshire
Cancer Alliance



Lung Health Checks commence in Withernsea as rollout extends to East Riding of Yorkshire



More than 350 residents in the Withernsea area have become the first people in East Yorkshire to take up the offer of a free NHS Lung Health Check.

A lung health check can help to identify lung cancer and other respiratory diseases early, often before symptoms have occurred and when treatment could be simpler and more successful.

The following people are being invited to book an initial telephone Lung Health Check assessment with a respiratory nurse.

Current and former smokers, aged between 55 and 74, who are registered with Holderness Health or Eastgate Medical Group GP practices, and live in one of the following areas:

- > Withernsea, Grimston, Welwick.
- > Albrough, Fitling, Skeffling.
- > Hilston, Easington, Ottringham.
- > Roos, Winestead, Kilnsea.
- > Flinton, Patrington, Patrington Haven.
- > Weeton, Owstwick, Sunk Island.
- Tunstall, Holmpton.

Following the assessment, some participants will be invited for a low-dose CT scan onboard a mobile unit, which is based at Withernsea Leisure Centre.

It is expected that 40,000 eligible participants in East Yorkshire will be invited for a lung health check as the unit moves around the region in phases.

Dr Tami Byass, a GP at Eastgate Medical Group in Hornsea, said: "I welcome the news of lung health checks starting to invite eligible patients in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

"Lung cancer can be difficult to detect in its earliest stages, as there are less noticeable symptoms until stages three or four, so I would urge anyone invited to take up the opportunity of a free lung health check – even if you feel fine."

Dr Stuart Baugh, Clinical Director for NHS Targeted Lung Health Checks in Humber and North Yorkshire, said: "The NHS Targeted Lung Health Check programme was first launched in Hull in January 2020, and then in North East Lincolnshire in January 2023.

"Around 17,500 telephone assessments have been carried out so far, and we look forward to seeing even more people benefit from the service as eligible participants in East Yorkshire take up their invitations."

Cancer Bus-ting Tour arrives in Grimsby

A specially designed NHS cancer bus-ter recently stopped off in Grimsby.

The vehicle, with Cancer Alliance staff onboard, has been travelling across the country to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer to encourage people who are worried about a symptom to contact their GP practice.

Part of the NHS Help Us, Help You campaign, the bus has been visiting towns and cities with some of the lowest early cancer diagnosis rates, including Grimsby, Coventry and Nottingham.

The bus was at ASDA supermarket on Holles Street, Grimsby, on 27th November. Health professionals were on hand to share further information and help people without a GP practice to sign up to their local service.

Dr Dan Cottingham, Cancer Research UK GP Lead for Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, said: "It was a success because we directed several people with symptoms to their GPs. Everyone appreciated the fact that we were there, and I had some useful conversations with people who had cancer diagnoses and were going through treatment.

"We also had a reporter from Calendar there, who interviewed a patient about her cancer journey as well as me."

Awareness and Early Diagnosis



Cancer Alliance staff spotlight



Cancer Alliance News

A warm welcome to Jennie Walker who has joined Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance as Health Inequalities Programme Lead.

Since joining the NHS 30 years ago, Jennie Walker has worked in NHS acute services across the Humber and North Yorkshire region.

Her roles have included managing lung, gynaecology and upper gastrointestinal cancer services at York and Scarborough hospitals.

After a spell at the Health Innovation Network, this is her first role in the Integrated Care Board.

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

I joined the Cancer Alliance as Health Inequalities Programme Lead in August.

This is a new role, working with Cancer Alliance colleagues, population health teams, primary and secondary care screening and care services providers, as well as voluntary care professionals.

The focus is on ensuring the cancer services we build and deliver take into account the barriers people in areas of deprivation or inclusion health groups face in accessing health services.

What attracted you to the role?

Growing up in the North East of England had a profound influence on me. Helping to shape health services that are accessible to all has always been important. It was the reason I joined the NHS as a public servant in the first place.

What do you see as the main challenges?

Humber and North Yorkshire is a vast and diverse region with a mix of rural, coastal and urban communities, and inequalities exist throughout our region. They are not always as visible as they are in other regions, so it is important that we work with our Integrated Care System colleagues and our neighbourhoods to understand the impact of inequality on how people live their lives.

We need to help people to make choices that will help them lead healthy lives and access healthcare. And when they do need to access healthcare, we have to ensure that we have reduced as many barriers as we are able.

What are you looking forward to most?

I am looking forward to understanding the needs of our communities better, working with neighbourhood teams and health professionals to reduce the impact of health inequalities on people's lives.

Health inequalities in the spotlight at Cancer Alliance workshop



Health Inequalities

Health inequalities in cancer care were the focus of a recent Cancer Alliance-facilitated workshop in Bridlington.

The workshop brought together stakeholders from acute providers, primary care, ICB population health, place delivery teams, patient representatives, charities and Healthwatch.

The event, on 15th November, was held at a sports hall. Cancer Alliance programme leads helped facilitate the workshop, focusing on their programme areas. It concentrated on the four stages of the cancer pathway: awareness, early diagnosis, treatment pathways, and living with and beyond cancer.

It asked four key questions: 1) What do stakeholders understand about health inequalities in the region? 2) What is being done in the health system to reduce these inequalities? 3) What does the Cancer Alliance need to focus on moving forward? 4) Who needs to be part of that drive?

Jennie Walker, the Cancer Alliance's Health Inequalities Programme Lead, said: "The workshop identified themes and strategies being developed by the Cancer Alliance – as well as taking into account national guidance. Feedback was that the event was valuable, with good ideas shared, and there was excellent networking between colleagues to focus on key opportunities to make change."





Cancer Alliance News

New Cancer Alliance patient and public engagement strategy

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance has unveiled its new patient and public engagement strategy.

The Cancer Alliance's **Working with People and Communities strategy** has been developed in partnership with different stakeholders, including patient representatives, patient and public involvement professionals and representatives from the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Inflatable lungs get people talking during Lung Cancer Awareness Month

A pair of giant inflatable lungs sparked quite a few conversations in Hull city centre recently.

To mark the start of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance joined forces with Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation and NHS England to bring a Let's Talk Lung Cancer roadshow to St Stephen's Shopping Centre on 1st November.

People visiting the roadshow were able to learn about the potential symptoms and risk factors beyond smoking, as well as how to improve their general lung health and reduce their risk of the disease.

Dr Dan Cottingham, Cancer Research UK GP Lead for the Cancer Alliance, said: "It was great to welcome the Let's Talk Cancer roadshow to Hull as it started a tour across the country.



Awareness and Early Diagnosis

"A lung health check can help to identify lung cancer and other respiratory diseases early, often before symptoms have occurred and when treatment could be simpler and more successful."

The new roadshow coincided with the continued roll-out of NHS Targeted Lung Health Checks across Humber and North Yorkshire. The service, which is currently operating in Hull and parts of North East Lincolnshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire, will be available in all areas of Humber and North Yorkshire in the coming years.

Cancer Alliance leads project to improve the experience of cancer patients with pre-existing mental health conditions

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is taking part in a collaborative project to improve the experience of cancer patients with pre-existing mental health conditions.

The aim of the project is to identify and reduce barriers experienced by people with lived experience of mental health conditions in accessing psychosocial support following a cancer diagnosis, to improve their quality of life.

The project is focusing on people with cancer who have pre-existing mental health conditions. The wider context extends to people with learning disabilities and autism, as well as those with dementia.

The Cancer Alliance team began the project in October and is working with NHS England as part of the Cancer Experience of Care Improvement Collaborative. The team has held online workshops, and is working with a people with lived experience.



Personalised Care

It is liaising with voluntary organisations to find more cancer patients with pre-existing mental health conditions to help shape its work.

Zoe Bounds, Project Delivery Manager for the Treatment, Pathways and Personalised Care Programme, said: "We are working with all relevant partners to reduce barriers to accessing appropriate psychosocial support for people affected by cancer in order to improve their quality of life.

"We will be presenting our work in March at an event in London."

