

## Cancer Alliance's annual report captures the work and achievements made during 2021/22 and outlines plans for the future

I'm pleased to announce that our 2021/22 Cancer Alliance annual report has been published.

The [annual report](#) captures the Alliance's work and achievements during 2021/22 in line with the requirements of the NHS Long Term Plan and outlines how the Alliance has been collaboratively working to transform the diagnosis, treatment, and care for cancer patients in our area.

The last year has been one of many successes and challenges. Covid-19 is still prevalent in our communities and while considerable resource across the local health and care system remains devoted to the pandemic, the demand on NHS services, including cancer services, continues to grow.

The report provides an overview on how we will continue to work with the [Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership](#) (integrated care system) to ensure Covid-19 recovery plans can help to build back cancer services in a sustainable way, so people who are referred for suspected cancer are seen and treated promptly.

Over the last 12 months colleagues have worked extremely hard to ensure cancer services are prioritised and it is thanks to the collaboration of many that we are able to celebrate some of the work that has been undertaken across the Cancer Alliance from April 2021 to March 2022.

Thanks to strong partnership working, we have helped to improve earlier diagnosis of cancer by providing non-specific symptom pathway coverage across 80% of Humber and North Yorkshire through the [Rapid Diagnostic \(RDC\) programme](#).

We have successfully restarted [Targeted Lung Health Checks](#) in Hull, which are helping to identify lung cancer and other respiratory diseases at an earlier stage, and we have increased the use of teledermatology to help rule out or diagnose skin cancer faster.

We have also remained committed to raising awareness of cancer prevention and encouraging people with symptoms of cancer to seek medical advice from a healthcare professional. One of the ways we have done this is through the delivery of free [Cancer Champion awareness sessions](#). In 2021/22, we trained an additional 600 people and there are now over 3,000 people helping to raise awareness of cancer across our area.

For those needing cancer treatment, we have introduced a new business intelligence report which helps to provide system oversight with regards to the number of patients per local hospital trust that are with or without a decision to treat. This report supports the identification of challenged pathways, so that actions for recovery can be taken accordingly.

To support people living with and beyond cancer, we have continued to implement [personalised stratified follow-up pathways](#) within local hospital trusts, which will help to improve patient experience following treatment and improve quality of life for people affected by cancer.

You can read about these achievements, and many more accomplishments, in greater detail in our [2021/22 annual report](#).



Cancer Alliance news

Dr Stuart Baugh  
Clinical Director  
Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance

## Supporting people affected by ovarian cancer: **Allyson's story**



Allyson, from East Yorkshire, is inviting people affected by ovarian cancer to 'walk with me' as she shares how walking became her salvation whilst living with and beyond cancer.

Allyson signed up to her first walking challenge in 2019, after receiving treatment for breast cancer. Whilst training for a **Breast Cancer Now MoonWalk challenge**, Allyson noticed she had put on weight around her stomach and was experiencing stomach pains. In May 2020, she was admitted to hospital for an urgent CT scan and later told that she had ovarian cancer.

Allyson said: "When I was diagnosed ovarian cancer, I didn't know the symptoms, but I'd encourage women to familiarise themselves with **B.E.A.T.**"

**B** is for bloating that doesn't come and go quickly  
**E** is for eating difficulty and feeling full more quickly  
**A** is for abdominal and pelvic pain you feel most days  
**T** is for toilet changes in urination or bowel habits

After receiving the diagnosis, Allyson decided to take on another walking challenge to help her prepare for surgery.

"In the month prior to my surgery, I walked 70 miles. It wasn't easy but I was determined to be as fit as I could be and I'm proud to say I continued walking after surgery."

In 2021, Allyson had an idea of creating a friendly walking group for women with ovarian cancer and, with support from **Ovacome**, '**Walk With Me**' was created.

"The group connect via WhatsApp to share friendship, encouragement and stories or photos from their walks. It's with thanks to their support, I achieved my goal of walking 52 marathons in 52 weeks."

"I now only do things that bring me joy every day and walking has become that for me. I face my fears as they arise, but know whilst cancer has changed me, it does not define me. It has been a real opportunity for change in my life for which I am grateful."

Read Allyson's story in full at [www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk](http://www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk).

## Join our patient and public representative group

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is looking to recruit more patient and public representatives to work with the Alliance and its partners to improve cancer services in our region.

Patients and the public play a crucial role in helping the Cancer Alliance and its partners to develop and improve local cancer services as they have been through these services and can use their knowledge and experience to shape them for the better.

Leo Stevens, the Cancer Alliance's Communications and Engagement Lead, said: "We want to ensure that patient and public voice is at the very heart of the Cancer Alliance's work around service development and delivery. If you are a patient, family member, carer or friend, we would love to work with you."

"By sharing your experiences and opinions, you can help make sure that the care cancer patients receive is what they really need. There are many different ways to get involved, and you can give as much or as little time as you would like."

If you want to join the Cancer Alliance's growing list of patient and public representatives, please provide your details by completing this [contact form](#).

Patient and Public Involvement

## Cancer Alliance funds research to evaluate if blood test can detect cancer



Diagnostics

A research study of the PinPoint Test is also being currently undertaken by **West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance**, which is evaluating its use as a decision support tool alongside urgent two week wait referrals.

Simon Cox, Managing Director, Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, said: "The Alliance is pleased to be funding this research and supporting further evaluation of the PinPoint Test within the NHS."

"The results of this study will be shared across the Alliance and if the outcome of this research is positive, we will work as a system to develop and deliver plans that drive forwards the use of the PinPoint Test across Humber and North Yorkshire."

Find out more about the PinPoint Test at: [www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk/the-pinpoint-test](http://www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk/the-pinpoint-test).

Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance is helping to fund a new research study that will evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of a new PinPoint blood test.

The test, which aims to support rapid diagnosis by predicting a patient's chance of having cancer, will be evaluated at York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (YSHFT) to determine whether it could be used as a decision support tool for GPs in the future.

If successful, the PinPoint Test could help to reduce pressure on NHS services by providing GPs across Humber and North Yorkshire with the information needed to facilitate more effective triaging and ensure those at greatest risk of cancer can be prioritised for access to further diagnostic tests.

The first stage of this study will be to evaluate the test's accuracy in patients being considered for referral into the **serious non-specific (vague) symptoms pathway**. During this phase, the results will not be fed back to the clinical team but will be used to assess the effectiveness of the test.

Dr James Turvill, Consultant Gastroenterologist at York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The results of this study will be used to determine the predictive accuracy of the PinPoint Test. If the results are positive, further evaluation will follow to see how the test could support clinical decision making to streamline diagnostic capacity and reduce waiting times, therefore improving the patient experience by alleviating anxiety and increasing the early detection of cancer."

## Cancer patients urged to complete NHS Quality of Life survey



Living With and Beyond Cancer

To identify where cancer care is working well or not so well, the Alliance is urging people to complete the **NHS Cancer Quality of Life survey**.

The survey aims to understand how quality of life may have changed for people 18-months after receiving a cancer diagnosis, and the results will help shape future plans for local services.

The **latest results** show that quality of life for people affected by breast, prostate or colorectal cancer in Humber and North Yorkshire (80.7 out of 100) was slightly higher than the rest of England (80.4).

To date the survey has been sent to 3,282 people across our area and 1,795 (54.7%) of these have taken part. This is the fifth highest response rate of the 21 cancer alliances in England.

Although since July 2021 the survey has been extended to all patients 18 months post-diagnosis, the results are still restricted to breast, prostate or colorectal cancer patients while results for other cancers are collated in numbers worth analysing.

The Alliance is urging more people to complete the survey so the next set of results can fully represent our cancer population.



Facebook

## Follow us on social media

The Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance would like to invite you to follow its [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages (@HNYCancer) which contain the latest news from across the Cancer Alliance.

Follow us to learn more about our work and discover opportunities to get involved with the Cancer Alliance's many initiatives.

## Free training provides “vital awareness” of cancer to community group

The Alliance has helped to raise “vital awareness” of cancer by delivering free [Cancer Champions training](#) to the Women’s Groups at [The Peel Project](#) in Hull.

The Peel Project provides support to people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities with lower socio-economic backgrounds, and the training has helped 47 people become more aware of multiple cancers, including breast, bowel, and lung cancer.

Sarah Muflahi, Volunteer Lead Co-ordinator, The Peel Project, said: “We organised Cancer Champions training because ethnic minority Muslims wouldn’t usually seek information about cancer and can be hesitant about going to the doctors.



“The face-to-face sessions were hugely beneficial as the group could learn together whilst receiving support from the Cancer Champions team.

“The training provided vital awareness about why it’s important to go to a healthcare professional with symptoms of cancer. It also focused on how to check your body for signs of cancer and how to spread information with others. This is important as there could be people walking around with symptoms who haven’t connected the dots as they don’t have enough awareness.

“We are pleased to have started a positive chain effect of being able to pass on knowledge that could save someone’s life within our community.”

Visit: [www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk/cancerchampions](http://www.hnycanceralliance.org.uk/cancerchampions) to book Cancer Champions training.

## A spotlight on Cancer Alliance staff: Jon Bateman, Project Delivery Manager



Awareness and Early Diagnosis

**What does your Cancer Alliance role involve?** My role is focused on improving the local performance of NHS cancer screening programmes and helping [Primary Care services](#) across our region to best support people presenting with symptoms of cancer and/or requiring cancer care.

**Tell us about a project you are currently working on?** Right now, I’m working on the use of [Faecal Immunochemical Test](#) (or FIT) in Primary Care to improve the diagnosis and management of patients who might have colorectal or lower gastrointestinal cancer. FIT is the same test used in the [bowel cancer screening programme](#) but using it widely in Primary Care is fairly new.

**How do these projects benefit patients?** The FIT project is part of a national push to manage waiting lists safely, helping to ensure patients with worrying symptoms receive a faster diagnosis and access to treatment if needed.

**What are you enjoying most about your role?** I work with a wide section of the healthcare system, and it is the variety of people involved that is one of the most enjoyable aspects. Everyone, from administrative staff through to senior clinicians, wants to make a positive impact for patients across our region, and this can help to make my job feel a lot easier!