

As a Patient and Public Voice (PPV) Partner to the national Cancer Programme, you will help to shape plans and projects by working with Cancer Programme teams and sharing your lived experience and perspective. You will help to ensure that what we do best meets the needs of people affected by cancer and their communities.

This document gives an overview of the PPV Partner role and its responsibilities. The way you work with us as a PPV partner can be adjusted to you based on your experience and needs.

What does the PPV Partner role involve?

Work on projects with Cancer Programme teams:

- Help to shape how projects are designed and run by sharing the perspectives of people and communities
- Become a member of project teams and be part of discussions
- Projects could be directly related to patient experience or other areas of work in cancer care
- Attend meetings (mostly via MS Teams, occasionally face to face)
- Help to produce and review documents, including for people with accessibility needs
- Help to guide how we evaluate projects
- Work with other areas of NHS England (NHSE) that are relevant to, or work with, the Cancer Programme

Share information between teams and communities:

- Become an active member of the PPV forum, which brings together all of the PPV Partners to the Cancer Programme to share and learn from one another
- Work with your Cancer Alliance Engagement Leads, who help the Alliance engage with local people and communities
- Become part of your Alliance People & Community Group, which brings together all of the Partners to the Alliance who represent people and communities
- Provide links to your own networks (such as charities, support groups, local and national cancer networks, local communities [beyond cancer] and language groups)
- Help strengthen or build links to people who are most affected by unfair and avoidable differences in health ([health inequalities](#))
- Share information on projects, priorities and community needs between these different groups, helping national teams understand what is happening locally and vice versa

Build your knowledge and experience and help others to do the same:

- Learn about the NHS and Cancer Programme as you work with us, and complete the NHSE training
- Receive feedback from project leads on how your input has been used and its impact
- Help to produce and review descriptions of new roles for PPV Partners within project teams
- Help us to evaluate the Cancer Programme's engagement with people and communities

Guiding principles

- Champion the importance of people and communities perspectives in project design and delivery and bring your wider personal and professional experience
- Share solutions as well as challenges, acknowledging that not all things that relate to cancer are the responsibility of the cancer programme. Be mindful of assumptions, prejudices and biases
- Be mindful that colleagues in NHSE may have their own lived experience of cancer
- Respect the confidential nature of conversations and work when this is required
- Comply with the [Standards of Conduct](#), including by declaring conflicts of interest

“To have a seat at the table, together with a wonderful mix of colleagues; sharing, discussing, supporting, learning, solution finding, being respected and valued for my contributions has been immense.”

PPV Partner, Kent & Medway Cancer Alliance

What experience or skills do you need?

Our PPV partners want to do what they can to make a positive difference to people affected by cancer.

It doesn't matter what educational background or job you have; we want to work with people with different backgrounds and experiences. As a general guide, our partners:

- have been treated for cancer at an NHS hospital in England or have cared for someone who has been diagnosed with cancer, within the past ten years. If a carer, this must be in a personal and unpaid capacity
- can share different views and needs of local communities and people affected by cancer (and may have good links to these communities), even if they may not be the same as their own view or perspective
- are committed to equality and diversity
- can understand and evaluate a range of information and evidence
- may be asked to share their thoughts on topics beyond their lived experience (such as developments in care)

“I've found being a PPV partner to be a positive and rewarding experience that has developed my knowledge base and allowed me to build relationships”

PPV Partner, North Yorkshire & Humber Cancer Alliance

What will this mean for you practically?

- It's important that you're able to engage in a way that works for you. Please let us know if you have any communication or IT support needs, and we will explore how best to make reasonable adjustments
- Depending on how you choose to engage and the projects you work on, we anticipate a total time commitment of 8-36 hours per year
- You will have the opportunity to attend monthly one-hour PPV drop-in meetings (via MS Teams), and two half-day or full-day PPV meetings per year (either face to face or via MS Teams)
- As you are able to, you will be expected to be involved throughout the year, and to take part in new projects that may be relevant for you
- The role of the PPV Partner is for two years initially. The role may be extended for an additional two years subject to the agreement of the person and the cancer programme.
- There may be opportunities to undertake roles that attract an Involvement Payment. If you are in receipt of state benefits, you should seek advice from the relevant agency, for example JobCentre Plus
- NHS England will reimburse reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in line with the [PPV Partners Expenses and Involvement Payments Policy](#)

What's in it for you?

- Have the opportunity to make a difference to people in England affected by cancer
- Build your knowledge and experience of the NHS and cancer care in England
- Get to know, and work with, other passionate people

“It has increased my confidence, allowed me to connect and empowered me to use my experience in forums where I feel I am making a difference. It has also given an opportunity to tackle health inequalities”

PPV Partner, Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance

“It has helped bring something good from my own cancer diagnosis as I feel I am doing my very best to make a difference for those that are facing or may face cancer in the future.”

PPV Partner, Kent & Medway Cancer Alliance