

# Heart valve disease awareness and early detection



Greater Manchester and Eastern Cheshire Strategic Clinical Networks

Developed by the Cardiac Network

## Introduction

Heart valve disease is increasing in incidence and is widely regarded as a developing epidemic. The number of patients with heart valve disease is predicted to double by 2046. This will have a major impact on individuals and their families, on society and on the National Health Service. Data released in early 2022 found there were nearly 300,000 people living with severe aortic stenosis in the UK, many of whom are undiagnosed. Severe Aortic Stenosis has a mortality rate of 50% at 2 years. Without proactive measures, many patients will die.

## What currently happens in service?



A patient pathway for heart valve disease can last over decades across multiple tiers of healthcare. There is need for ease of access to diagnostics and rapid access to services for time sensitive decisions and interventions involving complex care needs. The priorities above were agreed last year.

## The task at hand

- Urgently update current heart valve disease pathways and models of working
- Increase public awareness of the signs and symptoms of heart valve disease (less than 3% know what aortic stenosis is)
- Diagnosed patients need regular echoes to monitor the progression of their condition.

## Heart Valve Voice

Heart Valve Voice is the UK's dedicated heart valve disease charity. We work with patients and clinicians to help increase the awareness of heart valve disease in the UK and improve diagnosis and treatment. Wil Woan, the CEO of Heart Valve Voice is a member of our Cardiac Network. Visit: [heartvalvevoice.com](http://heartvalvevoice.com)



## Valve for Life UK

The UK Valve for Life initiative aims to improve and expand access to life-saving and life-changing minimally invasive 'key-hole' therapies for heart valve disease across the National Health Service. The team is made up of six Interventional Cardiologists working within different NHS trusts



## 'Your Heart Matters' bus visit to Manchester



The GM Cardiac Network partnered with Heart Valve Voice and Valve For Life UK to host the 'Your Heart Matters' bus in Manchester in September 2022. The year-long campaign raises awareness of heart valve disease and offers stethoscope and pulse checks to over 55s.

The bus provided an opportunity to educate people about the signs and symptoms of heart valve disease, the importance early detection and to give out educational materials.

The bus gained significant media interest and messages were amplified across the region through print media, radio and TV. We had coverage from BBC North West, Manchester Evening News, BBC Radio News and The Sun which means many millions of people had the opportunity to learn key messages on heart disease. We also had attendees from across the North West including Sir Richard Leese, Chair of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board.



## Results



**430**  
checks



**51**  
positive results



patients given a letter to take to their GP practice for further review