



## Patient and Public Champions Welcome Pack



This booklet has been  
co-produced with  
people affected by  
cancer

Working together | Improving together



**This welcome pack contains information to guide you in  
your role as a Patient and Public Champion**

**Thank you for joining us!**

### **Contents**

- Welcome to Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance
- An introduction to SSCA
- How you can help make a difference
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# Welcome!



“I would like to welcome you to Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance and thank you for joining our team of Champions. Together, we will develop and improve cancer services for the populations of Surrey and Sussex.

People affected by cancer are experts by their very experience of living with or caring for someone with cancer. Your involvement will ensure every aspect of our improvement work is co-produced by clinicians, managers and those affected by cancer.

Putting patients first is our priority and only by engaging you as equal partners in our work can we achieve our Vision, which is to *develop and deliver world-class outcomes in cancer care and treatment for the populations of Surrey and Sussex.*

I look forward to working with you to improve the lives of people affected by cancer and would like to thank you for your support.”



**Louise Stead | Chair of Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance**



## Who we are



Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance is one of 21 cancer alliances established across England and we work in partnership with health and care organisations including GPs, hospitals, local councils and Public Health England; voluntary and community sector organisations; and charities such as Macmillan and Cancer Research UK.

By working in partnership, we strive to:

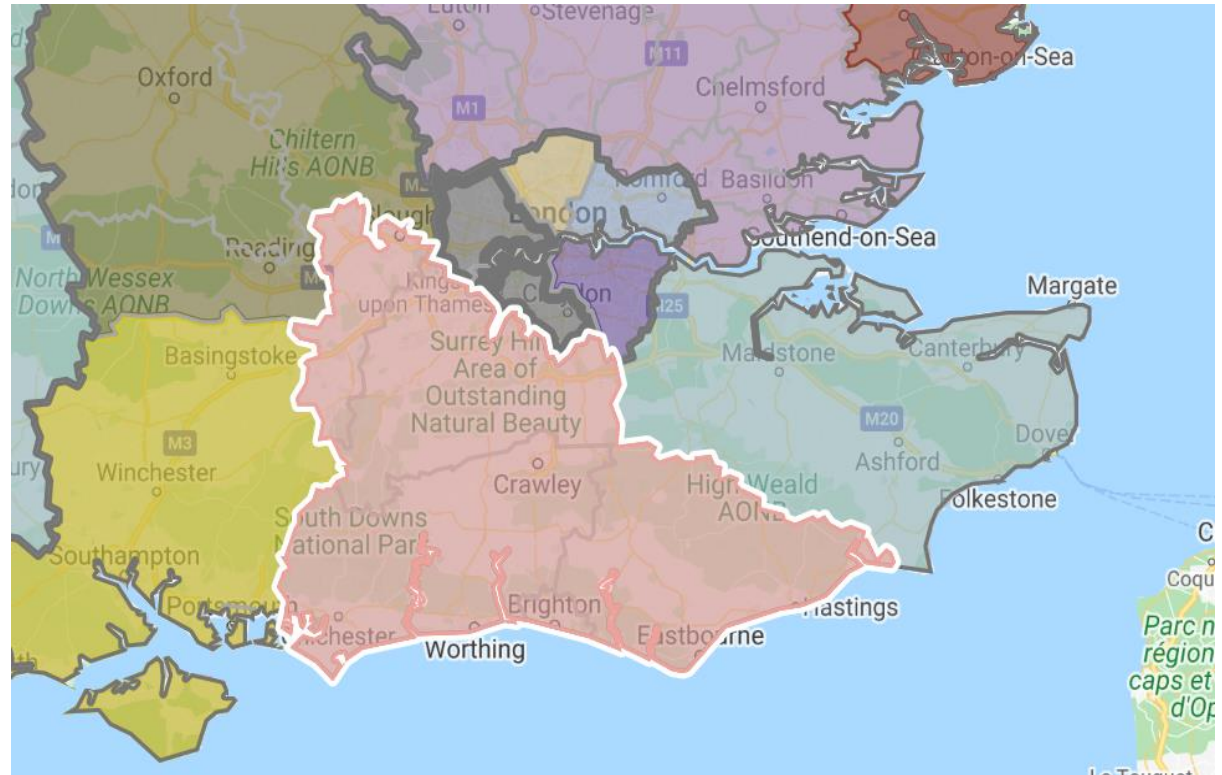
- **Reduce variation and inequalities in the delivery of cancer services across Surrey and Sussex**
- **Improve accessibility of cancer services across Surrey and Sussex**
- **Improve survivorship and outcomes for patients diagnosed with a cancer**
- **For patients to have a personalised plan for their cancer treatment and recovery that reflects their wishes**
- **Share best practice, innovation, and learning**



# Our footprint



The area we serve stretches beyond the boundaries of Surrey and Sussex – from Maidenhead in Berkshire to Eastbourne on the Sussex coast - and covers a population of nearly three million people.





## How you can help make a difference



People affected by cancer come from ALL walks of life and have ALL been affected either personally, through a family member, or a person they care for.

Understanding cultural and community experiences of cancer will help improve cancer services for all.

We would like to recruit patient/carers and public representatives from diverse communities and will support ALL champions to actively participate so they can be fully involved in the defining of cancer services across the region and have a positive experience in doing so.

The role of a champion offers a wide range of flexible opportunities to ensure ALL people affected by cancer are able to participate.



Surrey and Sussex  
Cancer Alliance

“I wanted to have the opportunity to have a say on what happens next in cancer services”

“I want to help improve the welfare of cancer patients and the process of their treatment.”

“I want to give something back to the NHS after my cancer treatment”

“I want to make a positive difference for patients who use cancer services in my area”





“I became a Champion to try and help other cancer patients to have as positive experience as I had. The Breast Cancer Care Nurse I was with at my hospital was a fountain of good advice and knowledge, as well as my oncologist and the Advanced Nurse Practitioner and the Radiographer Reviewer - they were all inspirational in their own way.”







## Different ways to get involved



You can get involved by:

- Participating in specific focus groups
- Attending events (virtually at present)
- Reviewing written material
- Completing surveys
- Telling us your story and sharing your experience
- Telling us what you think about cancer information
- Becoming a member on a specific committee or a group
- Becoming a digital Champion and sharing cancer information on social media

**Is there another way you'd like to be involved? Please tell us**



## How much time will it take?

You can be a Champion for as little or as long as you like. It is a voluntary role so you can choose.

We will tell you how much time each activity takes – you can say if you want to do it.

The activity could be one off (a focus group) or continuous (being a member of a working group or committee). You can choose how often you would like to be involved.





## How will we support you?



You don't need experience of influencing the delivery of a service or a background in health to get involved and have your say!

You are an expert by your experience of cancer, and by sharing these experiences, we can work together to bring about positive change for the future.

We can provide support and opportunities to enable you to learn more and develop new skills. This will enhance your experience of being a Champion and help you participate in a more meaningful and effective way.



## How will we support you?



- We can provide access to relevant training to enhance your skills and knowledge
- We can help you to attend online meetings
- We will ensure the information you receive is jargon-free, easy to read and understand
- We will pay some expenses (i.e. travel costs)

**We want to support you. We want to make sure you fully understand what we are asking you to do.**



## Learning Opportunities



**There is lots of free training available if you would like to enhance your experience as a champion. For example:**

- NHS England online training modules. Topics range from 'Equality, diversity and human rights' to 'Using social media to engage effectively with people and communities'.
- King's Fund free online training - 'The NHS Explained: How the Health System in England Really Works'.
- Macmillan Cancer Support free online cancer awareness course.

**Learning opportunities are optional but could enhance your experience as a Champion.**



## Our promise to you – The Champions' Charter



### **Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance will:**

- listen to people and ensure in every way possible that patients and the public views are heard and acted upon;
- involve the public early in developing our projects and plans and how we plan to deliver improvements in local cancer services;
- processes about how we redesign them. involve patients and the public early in our projects and decision making;
- demonstrate what impact patients and the public has had on the decisions we make;
- always feed back to people who have worked with us;
- use the information provided to ensure that we improve the quality of our cancer services, support equality and identify inequalities in access to healthcare;
- be honest about when we are engaging, when we are consulting and when we are providing information; and
- make sure that everyone who works with us will recognise and promote the value of involving patients and the public.



## What happens next?



Once you become a Surrey and Sussex Cancer Champion, our Patient and Public Engagement (PPE) manager will invite you to take part in a specific project or activity and they will talk you through the next stages.

You will be fully supported by the PPE manager to carry out the activity and will be kept informed of the outcome of your engagement.

**If you have any other questions or want to find out more, please contact the PPE team via email [rsch.sscappeteam@nhs.net](mailto:rsch.sscappeteam@nhs.net)**



## How to become a Champion



The recruitment of Champions is ongoing. If you, or someone you know, would like to become a Champion and get involved, contact our PPE Team on the following email address [rsch.sscappeteam@nhs.net](mailto:rsch.sscappeteam@nhs.net).

You can also download the application form if you click the link <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/cancer-alliances/surrey-and-sussex-cancer-alliance/our-areas-of-work/involving-patients-and-the-public/>

Find out more about the structure and work of the alliance at [Surrey and Sussex Cancer Alliance website](#)

**Thank you for joining us!**