



10.01.2025



Greater Manchester
Cancer Alliance

CANCER VOICES NEWSLETTER

KEEPING YOU UPDATED

Welcome to our Cancer Voices newsletter. This is our way of keeping you all informed about the latest internal and external opportunities we have for you to be a part of. If you have anything that is specifically related to cancer that you would like for us to share here, please do get in touch.

As always, we are grateful for your contributions to all pathways, projects and programmes in GM Cancer. We love to hear from you, so please do keep in touch by emailing us below.

Get in touch with the team at gmcancer.voices@nhs.net

Find out more about the GM Cancer Voices Community on our [website](#)

We can be a voice and we can make a difference. It's about us all working together to make a better pathway for cancer patients.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

This week, we have:

- Cervical Cancer Awareness Month
- Patient and Carer Representatives spotted in the news or on social media
- Congratulations to Jo Taylor
- Get involved
- Help promote This Van Can
- Current Opportunities
- Coming up this month



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

We hope you all had a restful break over the festive period! We look forward to partnering with you this year on more projects and initiatives and seeing you virtually or in-person across the year!

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month

Anyone with a cervix can get cervical cancer. Cervical cancer is a cancer that's found anywhere in the cervix. It mostly affects women under the age of 45.

Symptoms of cervical cancer include:

- vaginal bleeding that's unusual for you – including bleeding during or after sex, between your periods or after the menopause, or having heavier periods than usual
- changes to your vaginal discharge
- pain during sex
- pain in your lower back, between your hip bones (pelvis), or in your lower tummy

If you have another condition like fibroids or endometriosis, you may get symptoms like these regularly.

You might find you get used to them. But it's important to be checked by a GP if your symptoms change, get worse, or do not feel normal for you.

It's important to get any symptoms of cervical cancer checked as soon as possible. #GMCervicalCancer

[Watch our animation to learn more...](#)

You've been spotted



Over the last month it has been exciting to see various Patient and Carer Representatives within the news or on different social media platforms!

Kathy was in the MEN sharing the importance of looking after your health over Christmas

The This Van Can Prostate was spotted in this Guardian article



'I thought I was safe - then I got a Twitter message that changed my life'

Joanne Taylor has used her heartbreaking experience to help others - now she's been recognised in The King's New Honours list

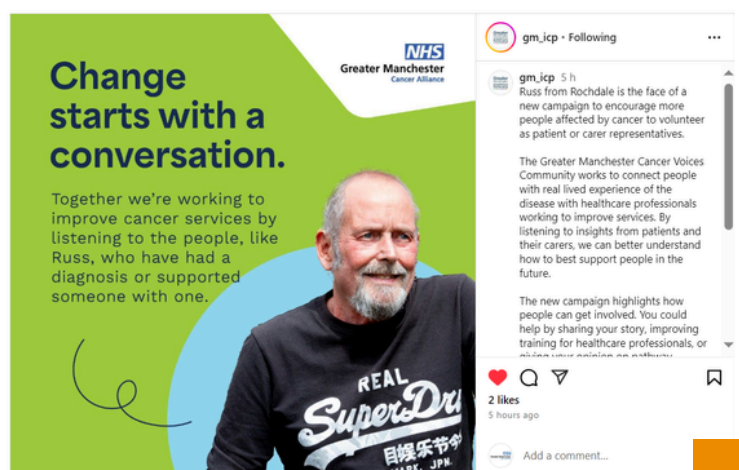
By Paige Oldfield Real life writer
22:30, 30 DEC 2024



Joanne with husband Jeff, son Regan and daughter Faron (Image: Joanne Taylor)

Jo Taylor was also recognised in the MEN for being featured in the King's New Year Honours List.

Russ was spotted on the Greater Manchester Integrated Care social media platforms as they kindly promoted our recruitment campaign to attract new volunteers as part of their 'Remarkable Rochdale' spotlight.





On the 30th December 2024, Jo Taylor was recognised in the King's New Year Honours list to receive a BEM – British Empire Medal, for services to patient advocacy through founding charity ABCDiagnosis and METUPUK, the only secondary breast cancer patient advocacy group in the UK.

Jo has been an active Patient Representative at the Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance since 2015 and a valued member of the Breast Cancer Pathway Board. Jo has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and represent the voices of patients with secondary/metastatic breast cancer. We are so honoured to have Jo as part of the GM Cancer Voices community. Well done Jo!

**Claire O'Rourke, Managing Director
at Greater Manchester
Cancer Alliance, said:**

"Jo continues to inspire me with everything she does to improve the lives of those with secondary breast cancer while living with, and being treated for, the disease herself."

"This award recognises her dedication to making a difference – not only for those living in Greater Manchester, but across the UK. Her work is seen and appreciated by so many."



Check this out

Training session with Delve

We are working with an organisation called Delve to bring you three exciting training sessions, exclusively for our Patient and Carer Representatives.

The first session '**My presence and impact**' is on the **23rd of January, 10am-1pm**. This session will focus on exploring techniques to manage confidence levels and assertiveness, how to handle imposterism, developing your emotional intelligence and how to play to your strengths. We will end the session with a **free lunch!**

[If you would like to come along please register online.](#)

Cancer board briefing

Our Cancer Board meets once every two months. It is currently attended by two Patient Representatives. We will start sharing the briefing paper after every meeting if you are interested in reading a summary of discussions. You can read our briefing document from the last meeting on 25th November.

[Cancer Board Briefing paper](#)

Are you interested in applying to join cancer board? [See our opportunity here](#)



Take part and help improve cancer services **NHS**

For more information, visit www.ncpes.co.uk

The National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES) is currently open for eligible patients to share their feedback and will close on **7 February 2025**. The survey asks for feedback from cancer patients (16 years and over), to inform and improve local cancer services across England. Those who were treated for cancer as an inpatient or day-case, and left hospital in **April, May or June 2024**, will have received the survey via post.

If you know anyone who is likely to receive this survey, please encourage them to complete and return it. [You can find out more about the survey and how to take part on their website.](#)

Help with promoting “This Van Can”

Our bowel cancer awareness van is back on the road this week, visiting Stockport for the next two weeks before it moves on to Trafford later in January. If you're nearby, why not pop in and visit the van?

Stockport

Asda, Marple – Thursday 9th and Thursday 16th January

Morrisons, Bredbury – Friday 10th and Saturday 18th January

Morrisons, Cheadle Heath – Saturday 11th and Friday 17th January

Trafford

Partington Shopping Centre – Thursday 23rd and Friday 31st January

Altrincham Retail Park – Friday 24th and Thursday 30th January

White City Retail Park – Saturday 25th January and Saturday 1st February



We're keen to promote the roadshow to help encourage as many people as possible to visit. If you're local to any of the locations, and think you might know of any local places that might be willing to display a poster (community centres, shops with noticeboards etc) please let us know and we can send some to you / directly to the organisation by post. It would be much appreciated! Contact gmcancer.comms@nhs.net

You can find out more about the van, [including future dates on the website.](#)



Cancer Board - Patient and Carer Representative

We are looking for one Patient and Carer Representative to join and actively participate in Cancer Board, championing the diverse views of patients.

Cancer Board takes place once every two months, and reports to the whole NHS in Greater Manchester. The board reports on progress, performance, national and regional deliverables and items including finance, strategy and risk. It brings together senior representatives covering the whole patient pathway who should make decisions on behalf of their organisations, and contribute actively to leading delivery of the Cancer Alliance Plan.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact us on gmcancer.voices@nhs.net

Interview Panel Member - Clinical Lead Interviews

We are looking for three Patient and Carer Representatives to join one of the interview panels, to help us recruit Clinical Leads for Haematology, Head and Neck and Research.

You will be provided with application information to read ahead of the interviews.

On the day of the interviews, there will be a presentation by the candidates, followed by questions. You will follow guidance from the lead interviewer (Susan Todd) about how to score, and a brief catch up prior to the interviews will be offered if required.

[For more information on the role, please see our website.](#)

Colorectal Pathway Board - Patient and Carer Representative

We are seeking a Patient and/or Carer Representative to join our Colorectal Pathway Board. We are particularly interested to hear from someone who has lived experience or supported someone with Colorectal cancer.

The Pathway Board Representative represents the collective views of local patients with cancer, and carers at the Pathway Board meetings by identifying appropriate areas for contribution.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please contact us on gmcancer.voices@nhs.net

[You can find more information about these opportunities on our website](#)

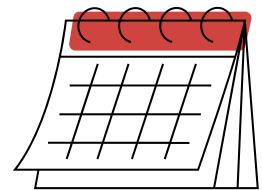
What's in the calendar?

These are meetings, pathway boards and events coming up in the diary where Patient and Carer Representatives are involved.

If there is anything you would like to know more about please let us know

Coming up in January

- **14th January** Lung Small Community
- **15th January** Urology Pathway Board Meeting
- **17th January** New reps Meet and Greet
- **20th January** Lung Pathway Board
- **22nd January** New reps Meet and Greet
- **22nd January** Programme and Pathway Board Forum



We hope that you have a lovely weekend, and thank you for being a part of the Cancer Voices Community.

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