

G M E N G A G E*Monthly Newsletter*

**A message from Jonny Hirst,
Answer Cancer Programme Manager**

Despite the ongoing impact of Covid, Answer Cancer continues to deliver its mission of engaging with a wide variety of people groups, ethnic communities and groups of identity to share the message of the importance of screening and early cancer diagnosis. The Answer Cancer Team has pressed ahead, delivering awareness raising sessions, inspiring individuals, connecting communities and organisations, training people in cancer awareness and supporting projects that help people to have an earlier diagnosis of cancer and a higher chance of successful treatment.

Friday 4th February was World Cancer Day, and to mark the day Answer Cancer partnered with The Science and Industry Museum, offering an exclusive tour of the new Cancer Revolution: Science, Innovation and Hope exhibition. As well as experienced this wonderful new installation, which I would highly recommend anyone to attend, the day was a great opportunity for some of the Answer Cancer community to come together, share life experiences and connect as we discussed ways to continue to increase awareness of cancer screening. Thanks to those I met on the day – it was a privilege to meet you and so good to have you as part of Answer Cancer.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to highlight the latest round of grant funded projects that Answer Cancer is supporting. These 20 projects, based within community organisations focusing on groups with additional barriers to screening, will see a plethora of creative and interactive activities, engagement events and awareness raising initiatives over the next few months, including projects focused on those with hearing impairments, people with learning disabilities, BAME groups, Jewish communities across Manchester and people suffering from mental health issues, to name but a few.

Thanks for all you continue to do in whatever role you currently play as part of the Answer Cancer community.

Answer Cancer News Round Up

Bowel Screening Videos launched with AskDoc

Answer Cancer have partnered with charity **AskDoc** to produce videos discussing Bowel Screening in fourteen community languages commonly spoken across Greater Manchester. These videos provide crucial information on the NHS Bowel Screening programme, such as who is eligible, how it takes place and why it is so important to take part.

[Find Out More](#)

Answer Cancer Targets Hard to Reach Groups

During 2021, Answer Cancer funded five organisations in an effort to target groups who we know have a lower than average uptake of cancer screening. These include marginalised communities such as LGBTQ+ and people from BAME backgrounds.

[Find Out More](#)

New training session for carers launched

After a successful training session for Carer's and other family members, Answer Cancer announce that a follow on session will be available during February. Titled 'Support for carers, families and relatives of people affected by cancer (PART 2)', this is a new course designed specifically to help people provide support to others affected by cancer.

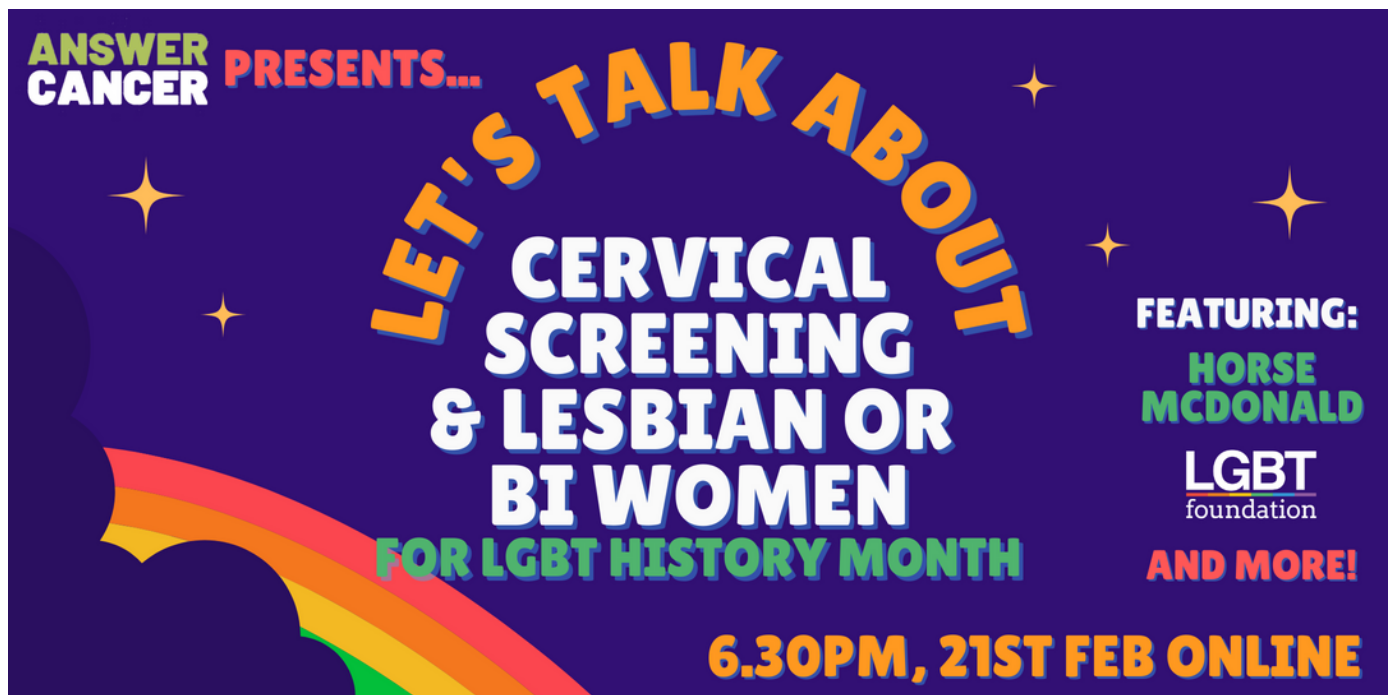
[Find Out More](#)

New Answer Cancer leaflets available

Answer Cancer have recently printed new leaflets about Cancer Screening in various community languages. These will help to get our message across to people from these communities who we know are currently less likely to take part in cancer screening. The information on these leaflets will help people to make informed decisions on whether to attend screening, tell them what screening they are eligible for, and let them know how to go about taking part.

[Find Out More](#)

If you are unable to access the links above these stories and more can be found at: www.answercancergm.org.uk/news/



To mark **LGBT History Month**, Answer Cancer is pleased to host this online event discussing cervical screening (aka the Smear Test) and why it is important for lesbian and bi women to take part.

In the past there have been many myths and disinformation about who needs to attend cervical screening. At this event you will hear from healthcare professionals about the importance of screening in keeping you safe and healthy.

We are also pleased to welcome the **LGBT Foundation** who will be talking about some of the barriers to screening that lesbian & bi women experience and how we can tackle them. A video from women's collective **Girl Gang Manchester** will give some valuable tips and advice on how to beat "Smear Fear".

Finally, we are delighted to speak to singer-songwriter **Horse McDonald** about this issue and what action the LGBT Community can take.

There will be opportunities for questions, answers and discussion throughout the evening.

We hope that you can join us for this event and help us tackle this vital issue.

Book your place now

Answer Cancer Training

MECC For Cancer Care Training

We have a very exciting brand new free training opportunity which will help you have conversations about mental health and emotional wellbeing in the context of working around cancer. The training sessions have been designed by the Royal Society for Public Health in collaboration with Health Education England and Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance. We have secured 15 places for Answer Cancer Champions and people who have been on Answer Cancer training. At the end of the programme, you will receive a certificate of Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

More details can be found [here](#).

[For other Answer Cancer Training Dates, please see here.](#)

Upcoming Dates for your diary:

- **1pm, 30th March 2022:** Answer Cancer Stakeholder Collaborative.
- **12.30pm, 31st March 2022:** To mark Trans Day of Visibility, we are hosting an event discussing Barrier to Cancer Screening for Trans/Non-Binary people.

Not yet signed up as an Answer Cancer Champion?

Being an Answer Cancer Champion is fun, an opportunity to learn and meet new people, and your work could help save someone's life. You don't need any special skills or experience, just an interest in helping other people. We will provide all the training and knowledge you need. It is open to anyone aged 18 and over who lives, works or studies in Greater Manchester.

Sign up here: www.cancerchampionsgm.org.uk/sign-up

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