

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

Answer Cancer In Person Get Together Returns!

Hello and welcome to this latest update from Answer Cancer, The Greater Manchester Cancer Screening Engagement Project!

After a pause of 2-years, our quarterly Stakeholder Collaborative finally came offline this month, as we met face to face at Eccles Town Hall. The event was an opportunity for friends and colleagues to network, reconnect and share their stories.

Across the morning we showcased what's going on across Greater Manchester with Answer Cancer and our partners. There was a focus on the brilliant work of organisations who have received funding and support from Answer Cancer.

Alison Jones (Director of Cancer Commissioning and Early Diagnosis, Greater Manchester Cancer) shared updates about the Lung Check Programme. We discussed how communities could help raise awareness. Dawn Lythgoe (Strategic Lead for Performance, Programmes & Communication, Bolton GP Federation) talked about their work to increase cervical screening. Drop-ins and engaging with communities differently can help. Finally Ashley Chapman (Grants Officer, Salford CVS) reported on the lessons and success of Answer Cancer's Grants Programme.

The biggest 'buzz' from the day was definitely our World Café. Seven of our grant recipients shared their stories in 15-minute-long sessions, as people swapped from table to table.

It was a lively, friendly, and informative day. Thanks to everyone who took part, especially those people who shared their work. Watch this space for the next one in September...

If you would like more details or a copy of the slides from the day, please get in touch!

LGBTQIA+ Cervical Screening Event



Answer Cancer were delighted to take part in an event on Thursday 16th June at HOME discussing research into alternative methods of Cervical Screening and the potential impact on take-up within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+ with a cervix have lower cervical screening attendance. The **Alternative Cervical Screening (ACES)** team at Manchester University have been investigating the accuracy of a urine test as an alternative to the 'smear' for screening, in the hope that this could increase screening attendance.

This event, hosted in partnership with **Manchester Pride** and the **Christie Hospital** and featuring the LGBT Foundation amongst others, was an opportunity to learn more about cervical screening and hear the results of the ACES LGBTQIA+ survey. There was an informative panel discussion where experts and LGBTQIA+ community members shared their experiences, future research directions and implications for screening within the community.

The event also celebrated those in the LGBTQIA+ community and their contribution to the project and featured a special live performance from queer synth-pop performer, HUSK. Answer Cancer hosted a stall at the event, speaking to guests about cancer screening, particularly in relating to members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and handing out information.

You can find out more about the research and follow its progress [here](#).

GP Practice Case Study

Voluntary sector partnership achieves huge increase in cervical screening rates at Robert Darbishire GP Practice

Crossing the boundaries of Trafford through Answer Cancer was a pilot project by [Voice of BME Trafford \(VBMET\)](#). It involved the roll out of a new cervical screening community engagement model at Robert Darbishire Medical Practice. This model involved:

- 1 to 1 contact over the phone with patients identified by the Practice as having not taken up screening, in a range of relevant community languages, such as Urdu, Arabic and Punjabi.
- Informative conversations with patients encouraging them to book their smear test
- The opportunity for patients to book their smear test at the end of the phone conversation, with specific clinics being arranged to increase capacity
- Effective community engagement, taking into account Covid restrictions. This included a Podcast, video messages for social media and other forms of remote engagement.
- Supporting the Practice in running awareness campaigns for screening

The result of the project were very positive. In total over 3,000 contacts were attempted, with over 500 women booked for screening as a result. This was more than double the initial target.

Overall this was a very successful pilot project funded by Answer Cancer, which shows great potential for roll out into other GP Practices across Greater Manchester.

You can read more about this piece of work [here](#).

Complete our Cancer Screening Insight Survey

The Cancer Screening System Insight Survey provides you an opportunity to feedback your experiences of the NHS Screening System (when you are invited for a cancer screen).

The aim of the survey is to identify what is working and what could be done better. We will report the results back into the service planning and commissioning systems.

Three national cancer screening programmes are offered in England to age-relevant populations. These are breast screening, cervical screening, and bowel cancer screening. To be eligible to take part in this survey, you will have either:

1) Attended, taken part in, or completed at least one of these cancer screening programmes

or

2) You have previously received an invite to attend/complete the cancer screening programme, but you chose not to.

**All information that you provide in this survey will remain anonymous.
Answer Cancer is a member of the Data Protection Register.**

**To take part, either click on the link [here](#),
or scan the QR code below.**



July Training Sessions

Free online training sessions from Answer Cancer, the Greater Manchester Cancer Screening Engagement Programme! Different dates and times available to suit you. You need to register in advance to attend these sessions. You can join as many as you like. Click on the links to register and find out more information.

All sessions are fun, interactive, and informative.

Difficult Conversations – Talking about Cancer: Tuesday 19th of July, 1pm

Learn how to have conversations about cancer so you can help save lives.

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes: Monday 25th of July, 1pm

Super charge your knowledge of the 3 NHS Cancer Screening Programmes and why they are so important.

Fun Approaches to Community Engagement: Monday 11th of July, 1pm

How to use 'tools' to make sessions interesting and interactive.

How to Run Brilliant Cancer Screening Awareness Sessions: Monday 18th of July, 1pm

This exciting course focuses on growing your facilitation and presentation skills, knowledge, and confidence. It is designed for any level, from beginners upwards.

All sessions must be pre-booked on our [training page](#).

If you have any queries, please email: actraining@uni.uk.net

[Find out more & register](#)

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