

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

14th-20th June - Cervical Cancer Awareness Week

As you may be aware, the third week of June is dedicated to raising awareness about Cervical Cancer, a cancer which sadly affects around 3,200 women in the UK each year. The majority of these are younger women aged 30-45. Unlike many other cancers, it doesn't always have symptoms in its early stages, which is why cervical screening, often called a smear test, is so important. This picks up abnormal cells in the cervix, often before they become cancerous, and means they can be treated much easier.

**THE LATEST SCOOP
IN THIS ISSUE:**

*Cervical Cancer
Awareness Week!
Upcoming Training &
Events!
Drop-in & Induction
Sessions!
Free Prize Draw!*

The aims of Cervical Screening Awareness week are:

- to reduce confusion about HPV (the virus which causes 99% of cervical cancers);
- de-mystify cervical screening and what it means if you have an abnormal result;
- and promote the importance of cervical screening.

You can find out more [here](#).

Upcoming Training and Events!

Please be advised of new training dates and 2 new exciting courses we have planned for June 2021. Please be sure to SHARE this email throughout all your networks. 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.



New Course – How to Run Brilliant Cancer Screening Awareness Sessions

This 2 hour course focuses on growing your facilitation and presentation skills, knowledge, and confidence. You will come away with lots of ideas and tips to help you run cancer screening awareness sessions in your work or community.

- Weds 23rd June, 6:30pm – 8:30pm: [**Book Here**](#)

New Course – Fun Approaches to Community Engagement

After a year in lockdown, thinking of new ways to keep people interested and participating in group activities can feel hard work. 'Fun Approaches' will show you how to use 'tools' to make sessions FUN and interactive.

- Weds 30th June, 10am – 12noon: [**Book Here**](#)

Please be sure to register BEFORE each session – It is essential you do this to be able attend – Zoom will generate a link for you to use to join each session registered for. Please 'Save' the generated links to your diary so that you can easily find them in order to attend on the day.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on the training, please contact actraining@uni.uk.net

Drop In and Induction Sessions

Whether you are a new or existing Answer Cancer Champion, please come along to one of our regular Drop-In or Induction sessions to keep in touch with the programme, find out latest news, and meet other Champions.

Induction sessions are designed for new Answer Cancer Champions to introduce you to the programme and give you all of the information you need to get started. Each session lasts for around an hour. Upcoming dates for June are:

- Saturday 19th June at 11am **[Book here](#)**

Drop-In Sessions are an informal get-together and networking session, where Answer Cancer Champions can hear programme updates and get to meet each other. There is no booking required for these, just click the link below to join the Zoom session:

- Wednesday 23rd June at 5.30pm: **[Join here](#)**

If you'd like to book onto the champion drop-in or induction session and to find out about future training and events, please register via this link:

<https://www.cancerchampionsgm.org.uk/events/>

Opportunity: PHE cancer screening research advisory committees

Public Health England are looking for people to represent the public and patient voice on the NHS screening programmes' **[research advisory committees](#)** (RACs) for the 3 NHS cancer screening programmes (bowel, breast & cervical).

Meetings take place 4 times a year and are currently held using Microsoft Teams. In the future there may be face to face meetings and any travel costs and expenses would be reimbursed.

The closing date for applications is 2 July 2021. More information, including **[how to apply](#)**, is available in the full advert **[here](#)**.

Please contact screening.research@phe.gov.uk with any questions.

Free Prize Draw!



We have a small favour to ask of you – and are giving away 5 fantastic ‘goody’ bags to those who take part and want to be entered into our fab competition for a chance to win one.

As we slowly move out of lockdown and navigate a ‘new normal’ we need a little help from you to make sure we get it right.

The Answer Cancer training offer aims to equip individuals and groups, with the skills and knowledge they need to enable them to confidently pass on positive screening and cancer awareness messages and promote best practice in communities and the workplace.

Evaluating our current training offer is important if we are to ensure it continues to meet your needs now and in the months ahead, and this also gives you the chance to have your say on what you would like to see moving forward.

Here’s what we need you to do and how you can take part:

We have devised a quick online survey (8 questions - 3 mins approx.) for you to complete.

We will then randomly select the winners of our 5 fab great prize goody bags, including Answer Cancer branded stationery, badges and a T-Shirt.

Surveys must be completed by Friday 18th June and the 5 winners will be notified no later than Weds 23rd June.

What we've been up to

Answer Cancer Interns

During the past couple of months, Answer Cancer has been hosting four students from Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) as interns helping us with our work and various project. Here is one of those interns Laura, to explain what they have been doing:

"Our roles as interns at Answer Cancer GM has been both diverse and fulfilling. As four students from MMU we have formed a tight group and have found group tasks to be most successful.

One of these was doing an Instagram takeover on the MMU Student Union page, in which we raised awareness for cancer screening amongst the diverse communities and encouraged people to become a Answer Cancer Champion. Another exciting event we have coming up is a drop-in session for the faculty team at MMU, where we will be delivering an awareness session for the LGBTQ+ community and information on cancer screening. Our aims for this session is to spark a debate on how MMU as an institution can do their bit to raise awareness especially for the underrepresented communities.

Being younger Champions we have challenged ourselves to find creative and contemporary approaches to engage the younger demographics."

Happy Pride Month from everyone at Answer Cancer!



Twitter: @AnswerCancerGM

Website: www.answercancer.org.uk

Twitter: @GMCancerChamps

Website: www.cancerchampionsgm.org.uk