



ONE VISION
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

In partnership With

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

ONE VISION CANCER CHAMPIONS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 1
MARCH 2025

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to update you on progress with One Vision's Cancer Champions Programme in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support. Our three year project aims to raise awareness of cancer and improve access to support in Watford and Three Rivers, particularly for under-served and ethnically diverse groups.



Research states that one in two of us will get cancer, which means that almost all of us will be impacted by cancer during our lifetime, whether this is ourselves or someone we care about.

No one should receive a lesser service because of their ethnic background, their faith, their income or their personal circumstances, but the reality is that there are many barriers to equitable cancer care. Through our project, we want to reach those communities who might otherwise be excluded, be diagnosed with cancer at a later stage and thus have worse outcomes, or who may have challenges in getting the right information and support.

Our Programme links closely with One Vision's existing projects and networks, including those that support carers, bring health and faith groups together, and tackle mental health and food poverty.

This newsletter updates on what our Cancer Champions team has been up to since we started last summer, and to highlight some upcoming activities where we'd welcome your involvement. Together, we can shape a healthier future and make a real difference in our community.

Harjit Singh DL, Chair of Trustees, One Vision

The Importance of Diversity and Faith in Cancer Care

By Enoch Kanagaraj BEM
Founder and Chief Executive, One Vision

Cancer does not discriminate, yet access to care, support, and outcomes often do. In the UK, ethnic minority communities face significant barriers to cancer awareness, early diagnosis, and treatment. These challenges are exacerbated by cultural taboos, language barriers, and systemic inequalities, leading to later-stage diagnoses and poorer health outcomes.



At One Vision, we recognise that diversity and faith play a crucial role in tackling these health disparities. Our Cancer Champions Programme, in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, is committed to breaking down barriers by engaging directly with faith groups, community leaders, and grassroots organisations to build trust and raise awareness. Faith communities are often the first point of contact for many individuals seeking support, and by working together, we can provide culturally sensitive education, encouragement for screening, and access to essential health services.

Faith is not just a belief system; it is a pillar of strength, guidance, and unity for many people, particularly in ethnic minority communities. By integrating faith-based engagement with healthcare initiatives, we ensure that conversations about cancer take place in safe, trusted environments, where stigma can be challenged and support can be accessed without fear or hesitation.

Through our partnerships with faith groups, we are not only raising awareness but also fostering a compassionate support network for those affected by cancer. Whether through community awareness sessions, Cancer Safe Spaces, or culturally tailored health initiatives, our mission is to empower every individual, regardless of their background, to take charge of their health.

At One Vision, we believe that no one should be disadvantaged because of their ethnicity, faith, or personal circumstances. By working together, we can create a future where cancer care is truly inclusive, accessible, and equitable for all.

Together, we can make a difference.

Addressing Health Inequalities in Cancer Care

Our Cancer Champions Programme aims to tackle health inequalities, so that nobody lacks access to vital support services. Research shows that in the UK:

- Black and Asian people generally wait longer for a cancer diagnosis than their White counterparts.
- South Asian women are less likely to attend breast and cervical screenings.
- Black men are twice as likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Asian and Black people have poorer outcomes for some cancers, and are less likely to report a positive care experience than their White counterparts.

Addressing these challenges requires targeted, culturally sensitive initiatives that promote both awareness and uptake of care. Our project aims to bridge gaps and bring communities together to build trust and foster connections, by creating meaningful relationships with those who may otherwise feel overlooked or marginalised. We want to reduce inequalities in cancer care, and work together to build healthier communities.



Meet the Cancer Champions Team

The Team started in June 2024. We have lots of skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and connections that are helping us to deliver this exciting Programme.



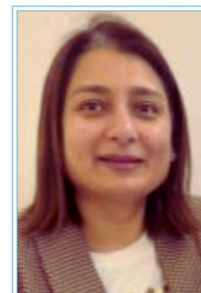
Enoch Kanagaraj BEM Founder and Chief Executive of One Vision



Susannah Brunert
Cancer Programme Manager



Abhha Sandhill
Volunteer Manager



Priyanka Gandhi
Volunteer Manager

Our Launch

We launched our Cancer Champions Programme in the summer of 2024, at a very successful event attended by professionals, local dignitaries, faith leaders and community members.

The Mayor of Watford and the Three Rivers Deputy Leader were among those who expressed their support, acknowledging that our initiative has the potential to transform lives within the community. Mayor Peter Taylor stated:

"I'm so pleased this project is happening. Charities like Macmillan Cancer Support do so much to help people with cancer and their families.

It is great that they are working with One Vision to make sure everyone in our community is supported through a difficult period in their life, receiving really important care and support."

We also had great feedback from participants, including: 'Thank you for the event, it was incredible to hear all the experiences from people and I found it really informative'.



Launch of Programme



Mayor Peter Taylor at the launch

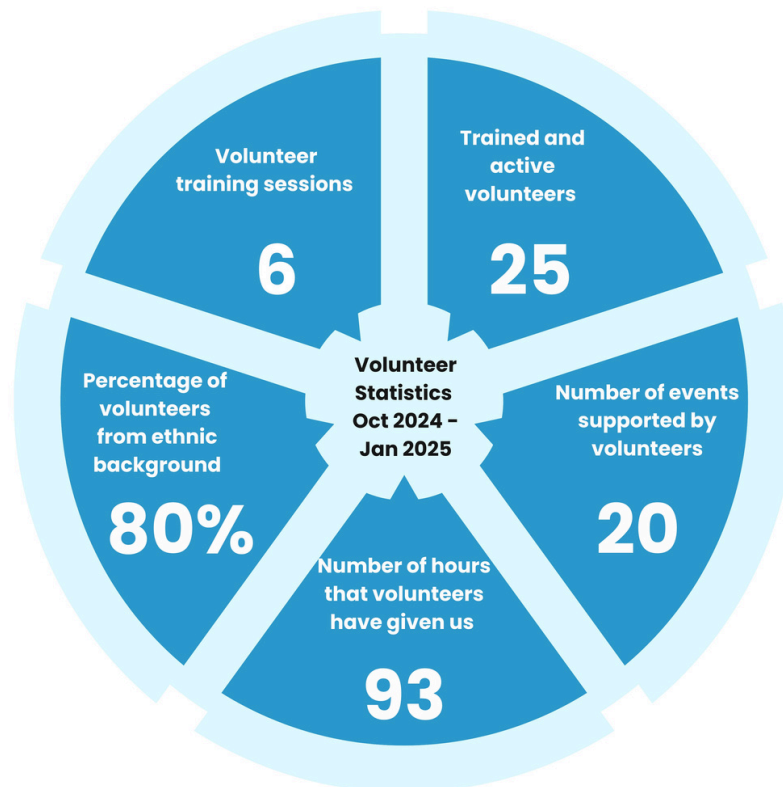


Enoch with Luther Blissett OBE DL

What We've Achieved So Far Our Volunteers

As part of our Cancer Champions Programme, we are recruiting volunteers from a variety of diverse backgrounds, who are willing to talk to people in their communities about cancer and the support available, and join with us in making a real difference. Volunteering offers endless opportunities to connect, give back and learn.

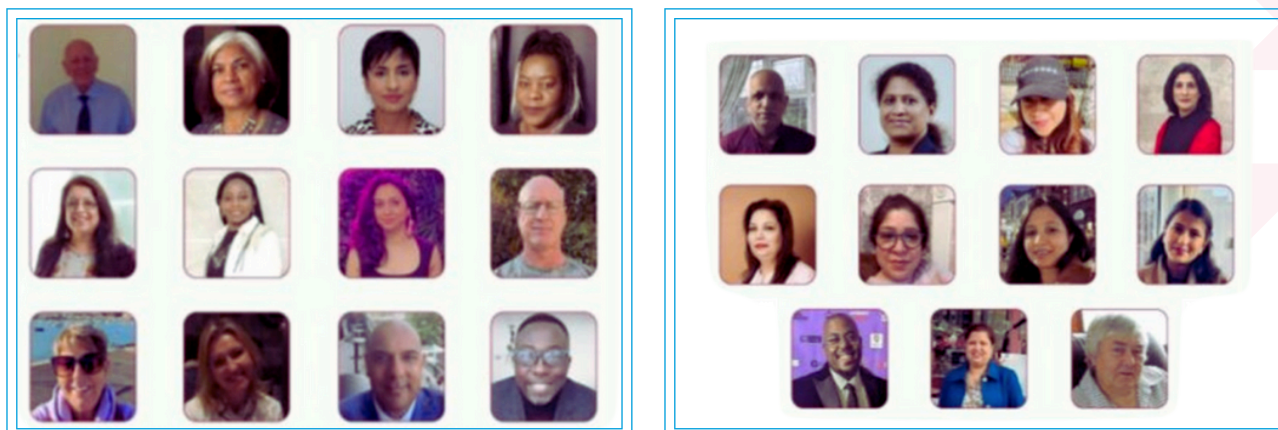
We are really proud that we already have 25 active volunteer Cancer Champions who have completed their induction and training. They come from a range of backgrounds, with amazing skills and experience. For example, the languages they speak include Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Pahari, Kashmiri, Swahili, Marathi, Afrikaans and Shona. They will help us to reach communities where awareness and access to culturally sensitive support is crucial. We celebrate their dedication and compassion in stepping forward to make a difference in their local community.



Could you be part of our volunteer team? Come and join us!

You don't need any formal qualifications nor any specific knowledge of cancer to volunteer with us, as we provide training and support. By being one of our volunteers, you will have the opportunities to develop new skills, make new friends, and give back to your local community. We would love to have you join our team! To find out more, please contact Priyanka or Abhha, their contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Our Volunteers



Our Volunteers In Action

Our volunteers have helped us with numerous activities including:

- Supporting our stalls at community events
- Running cancer awareness activities
- Being part of strategic workshops
- Helping at drop-in sessions to recruit volunteers
- Being interviewed on community radio stations
- Building a directory of community resources
- Facilitating our Cancer Safe Space support groups

Volunteer Spotlight

We would like to introduce you to Kinnari, one of our amazing volunteers.



Kinnari

Kinnari says: 'One Vision has come as a blessing to me when I had just stopped working, and become a carer for my mum-in-law. On seeing a message in a local WhatsApp group for volunteers to support One Vision's Cancer Champions Programme, I saw a purpose to give something back to the community as my mum-in-law and her daughter are cancer survivors. I feel great to be part of this programme as we work to raise awareness of cancer in our community, and break myths and barriers surrounding cancer especially in South Asian communities'.

Our Volunteers - Making a Difference



Our Impact

We have been really busy in our ambition to increase awareness of cancer, its symptoms and the support that is available. These are some of the things that we've been doing.

Focus Groups and Awareness Sessions

We have been listening to people with lived experience of cancer – both individually and in groups – so we understand their concerns, and any gaps in services that we can help with.

We have arranged several cancer awareness sessions, to help people to identify potential symptoms and to encourage them to attend screenings. Early detection and prevention of cancer helps to detect risks early and to improve health outcomes. These sessions have taken place at lots of different places in Watford and Three Rivers, including at community groups, faith settings, and community spaces such as supermarkets.

We are developing a 'Community Directory' with our volunteers, to help with signposting people to a range of support, including culturally specific resources.



Unpaid Carers Group



Getting Together Club



Live and Learn Club



Hare Krishna Temple

We have also participated in a range of events organised by One Vision itself, which has helped us to reach large and diverse audiences.

Our activities have included us going to the Toddler and Baby Group at the West Watford Community Centre, the Live and Learn group at the Multi Cultural Community Centre, the Getting Together Clubs at the Holywell Community Centre, the Fifty Plus Club at the Watford African Caribbean Association, having a stall at Tesco Extra in Watford, speaking at the Hare Krishna Temple and visiting One Vision's Unpaid Carers Group.

Community Engagement

We have been to many different community events, as we want to reach out to people, not expect them to come to us. This is central to our ethos of inclusivity and accessibility. We aim to break down barriers by being present in the spaces where people feel most comfortable and supported.

This has included Black History Month events, South Asian Heritage celebrations, Macmillan Cancer Support events, Diwali celebrations, Faith & Health Network events including one hosted by Matt Turmaine MP at the Houses of Parliament, local community fun days, Church musical festivals, school carol concerts, Inter Faith Week activities and more!



Watford Celebration

We also had a series of drop-in events at the local Council's Healthy Hubs, situated in libraries and community venues throughout Watford and Three Rivers, to raise awareness of our project, build connections with the local communities, and to recruit volunteers.



South Asian Heritage Month Celebration



Meriden Community Fun Day with Anthony Joshua

Number of awareness related events

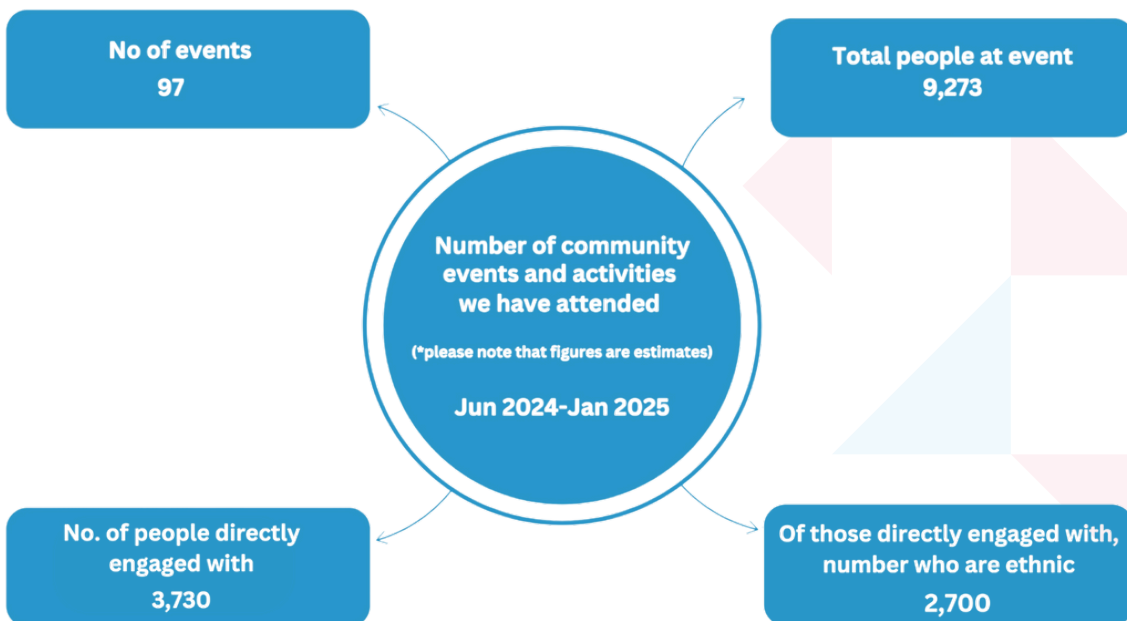
| | |
|-----------|---|
| September | 3 |
| October | 3 |
| November | 1 |
| December | 1 |
| January | 4 |



Herts Carers Event



Herts Pride



Our Cancer Safe Spaces

We launched our Cancer Safe Spaces in February 2025 - an opportunity for those impacted by cancer to drop in, meet others for a friendly chat, and get emotional and practical support if needed including signposting information.

These sessions are open to everyone affected by cancer, whether you're recently diagnosed, living beyond cancer or supporting someone who's affected. We will also have a Cancer Safe Space that is only for South Asian Women with tailored support and community languages available.



Do get in touch or see our website for further details. We will also be doing some 'pop up' Safe Spaces in places of faith and other community locations as we roll out our programme.

Introducing Our Cancer Champions Advisory Group (CAG)



We have set up a Cancer Champions Advisory Group to oversee and support our Programme, providing us with their expertise and constructive feedback. This incredible team of experts and community leaders are dedicated to supporting cancer care, health equity, and empowering our communities.

How you can get involved

We would love your support in helping make our Cancer Champions Programme a success. Here are a few ways you can help us:

Volunteering:

If you are interested in volunteering with us, please get in touch. We are really keen to have more people join our exciting project. Please also help us to spread the word about our volunteering opportunities.

Cancer Safe Spaces:

if you know someone who has been impacted by cancer, please let them know about our Safe Spaces.

Cancer Awareness Activities:

If you know of a community group or faith setting where we could come and talk about cancer awareness, please get in touch.

Cultural Competency Training:

We will be providing training for professionals and volunteers on providing culturally sensitive and appropriate services for those affected by cancer. If you are interested, let us know.

Cancer support and signposting:

If you or someone you know would like to find out about support and services for those impacted by cancer, including those provided by Macmillan Cancer Support, do get in touch.

Keep in touch with us:

Please follow us on social media for the latest updates and news.

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