



Date: 19 October 2020

Wessex Cancer Alliance
NHS England
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Southampton
Hampshire
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Email: england.wessexcanceralliance@nhs.net

Dear Colleague

We would like to offer you the opportunity to apply for a place on Wessex Voices' highly regarded Empowering Engagement Programme, which will support the Alliance and our partners in developing our culture around patient and public involvement (PPI) in all we do.

What is the Empowering Engagement Programme?

It is a six-month development programme which focuses on how to empower change through public and patient engagement.

The programme includes:

- what engagement is
- collaborative and engaging leadership
- engagement through change
- personal styles and influencing for engagement
- evaluation of engagement
- an opportunity to undertake a PPI project from your work programme
- celebration of the learning and progress as individuals and a team

Why is it needed?

Never has there been a time where engaging stakeholders and working collaboratively in designing and delivering cancer services has been more prominent and important. With constant change and higher demands comes the need to be more creative and innovative in the way in which services across systems are developed. Understanding where and how to engage with the users of services and the public is paramount, and the need to build positive relationships is central to this process.

The programme focuses on the importance of patient and public participation and co-production in line with service requirements. The aim of the programme is not only to enhance participants' confidence and skills in involving people in services but to further develop a culture of engagement for the Alliance and our partners.

Who will provide the training?

The course is provided through our partners Wessex Voices, who aim to transform patient and public involvement in health services across the area. They are a partnership between NHS England/Improvement and five local Healthwatch (Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton).

Empowering Engagement is led by Paul England, of the England Partnership, and supported by Wessex Voices (Sue Newell) and a local Healthwatch. The England Partnership is a leadership and organisational development consultancy, with 15 years experience of working across the health and social care. Paul has worked extensively in leadership development and change management across the public, private and third sectors.

How is it run?

The course will be run online and is a commitment of one day per month between January and June 2021 for a cohort of up to 12 people. You must be able to commit to all the dates set out in the Expression of Interest form (see below).

Each day starts with a seminar where participants will be encouraged to discuss and apply their learning with the support of Paul, Sue, Healthwatch and other external contributors. These are followed by action learning sets on the same day, which are an opportunity to develop and progress your projects.

What is the time commitment beyond the six days?

In addition to these days, you will be offered follow up phone calls between each course date to support your development, and you will be expected to produce a poster to share your learning from the course (you will be helped with this). This may total another day over the six months.

The course is designed to support you with an existing project where you need to involve people as part of your current work programme. We recognise these may not be completed in this timeframe and run beyond the life of the course.

Are there any additional costs for my team/organisation?

The programme is being funded by the Alliance so there are no additional costs, other than that of your time, please make sure you have the full support of your line manager. Places are limited and so all applicants are asked to complete an application in the form of an expression of interest, as described below.

What next?

If you are interested, please complete the [expression of interest form](#) by the 3rd December 2020. **Please hold the course dates in your diary now if you do apply.**

The EOI can be found at: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/BOJSQ0/>

All applications will be reviewed and places will be confirmed by the 18th December at the latest.

If you would like to talk to Paul England about this further please email him on paul@theenglandpartnership.org or call 07855 559180. You can also talk to Sue Newell at sue.newell@helpandcare.org.uk.

We look forward to receiving your applications for this exciting opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Sally Rickard
Managing Director