



Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire Cancer Services (SWAG) Cancer Clinical Advisory Group Charity Involvement Brief

Cancer Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) meetings are held across the South West of England. The remit of the Cancer Clinical Advisory Group Manager (hosted by University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust) for the SWAG region of the South West is to coordinate these meetings and resulting group activities for the following cancer sites:

- Brain and CNS
- Breast
- Cancer of Unknown Primary
- Colorectal
- Children and Young Adults
- Gynaecological
- Haematological
- Head and Neck
- Lung
- Skin
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma
- Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy,
- Upper Gastro-intestinal (Oesophago-Gastric and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary)
- Urology.

The CAG meetings support the cancer services across the following areas:

- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- North Bristol Trust
- Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust
- Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The purpose of these meetings is to bring about improvements in the quality and equity of care and outcomes for the population they serve.

The Government's paper *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer* states that 'working together with other organisations and individuals, we can make an even bigger difference in the fight against cancer'.



Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire Cancer Services (SWAG) Cancer Clinical Advisory Group Charity Involvement Brief

It would therefore be ideal to be able to link with cancer related charity groups within the CAG meeting environment, in the hope that the following mutual priorities can be achieved:

- Bring the voices of a significant number of patient or service user experiences, supporting the principle of *'no decision about me without me'*
- Feedback information on changes and innovation from the CAG meetings to patients or service users
- Encourage greater patient and public involvement in the NHS cancer services
- Share information on any services that charities may be providing along the patients pathway or for carers
- Provide advice on the production of patient and carer information to ensure that informed choices can be made
- Provide support for research projects
- Help forge links with commercial and academic partners
- Assist in identifying methods for improving services.

To enable the most productive CAG meeting environment for working together with different organisations, it is essential that all representatives attending the CAG meetings have the joint objective to remain impartial and collegial. Therefore, any conflicts of interest between charities cannot be broached within the CAG meetings.

All charities, however influentially positioned, will be treated on an equal basis.

Any deviation from an objective ethos within the CAG meetings would result in exclusion.

If you would like to express an interest in your charity becoming involved in the CAG meetings, please email helen.dunderdale@uhbristol.nhs.uk to confirm your agreement with the principles outlined in this CAG Charity Involvement Brief.