'A year of listening'

An exciting new community engagement programme about local cancer services in Medway & Swale

Invitation to join our Cancer Treatment & Personalising Patient Care Plans Focus Group

Day: **Date:** **Time:** **Location:**

Dear/Hello insert name here

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to take part in a new 'Year of Listening' focus group programme that we will be working on, with MVA and Macmillan, about local cancer care and treatment services in Medway & Swale.

Whilst it is generally recognised that cancer support services in Medway & Swale are good, the areas both underperform in many cancer system indicators which have not been helped by the pandemic which has had a further adverse impact on cancer diagnosis and treatments, locally and nationally.

The programme aims to engage with local communities and residents to hear their stories and understand the barriers and challenges they are experiencing in accessing local cancer treatment and support services.

So, if your, or someone close to you's, life has been impacted by cancer this is a great opportunity to have your say and help shape the future of local cancer services for everyone.

Every month we will be hosting a focus group exploring different parts of Medway & Swale's cancer care and treatment system, the groups should last no longer than one and a half hours and are a great way for you to also find out more about the other 'Year of Listening' programme activities going on.

At the end of the programme these views will be shared with key decision-makers who have committed to taking action based on these insights.

There are many cancer treatments and depending on a patients particular situation, they may receive one treatment or a combination of treatments. Effective personalised cancer care provides people with information about maintaining a healthy lifestyle and support to self-manage their condition. This includes helping to manage the physical and emotional effects of cancer and its treatment and to access financial, emotional, practical and social support.

If you would like to take part in our focus group on cancer treatment and personalisation of patient care plans on insert date please let us know by contacting insert name and contact number or insert e-mail address.

If you want to 'have your say' but can't make one of our focus groups please let us know and we can organise for you to join the conversation through one of the other 'listening' activities. Alternatively, you can join the programmes private WhatsApp group weekly discussions on a range of cancer topics by following this link: https://chat.whatsapp.com/ELvEQetmEy0Hr9vSQmUUKd

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards