



## Peninsula Cancer Alliance

### Peninsula Cancer Alliance (PCA) Site Specific Groups (SSG) Charity Involvement Brief

#### **Background**

The Peninsula Cancer Alliance is one of 16 Cancer Alliances across England. The purpose of Cancer Alliances is to bring together local clinical and managerial leaders from care providers and commissioners across the whole cancer pathway, to drive forward the transformational changes needed to progress existing cancer services over the coming years.

#### **Site Specific Groups (SSGs)**

The PCA has 13 cancer site specific groups representing the following tumour sites:

- Brain and CNS (Neuro-Oncology)
- Breast
- Cancer Unknown Primary (CUP)
- Colorectal
- Gynae-Oncology
- Endocrine and Thyroid
- Haemato-Oncology
- Head and Neck
- Sarcoma
- Skin
- Thoracic Oncology (Lung)
- Upper GI (OG and HPB)
- Urology

PCA SSG meetings are held twice a year (for each tumour site) supporting cancer services provided by the following hospitals trusts:

- North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
- Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
- Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust
- Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust

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The Primary objectives of SSGs are to support clinicians' to improve patient care and achieve world class cancer outcomes for the population they serve.

In order to embrace a collaborative approach in bringing about improvements in the quality and equity of care, it is important to work in partnership with other organisations and individuals<sup>1</sup>.

By linking with cancer charitable organisations within an SSG meeting environment, it is hoped that the following mutual priorities can be achieved:

- Bring the voices of a significant number of patients or service user experiences, supporting the principle of “no decision about me, without me”.
- Feedback information on changes and innovation from the SSG 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 care 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 SSG meeting environment for working together with different organisations, it is essential that all representatives attending the SSG meetings have the joint objective to remain impartial and collegial. Therefore, any conflicts of interest between charities could not be broached within the SSG meetings. All charities, however influentially positioned, will be treated on an equal basis. Any deviation from an objective ethos within the SSG meetings would result in exclusion.

If you would like to express an interest in your charity becoming involved in the SSG meetings, please email [nina.kamalarajan@nhs.net](mailto:nina.kamalarajan@nhs.net) (Peninsula Cancer Alliance SSG Support Manager) to confirm your agreement with the principles outlined in this SSG Charity Involvement Brief.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health (2011) “Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer”: accessed online [20.07.2017]: available at: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/213785/dh\\_123394.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213785/dh_123394.pdf)



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For further information on the work of the PCA SSGs, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.swscn.org.uk/networks/cancer/site-specific-groups/peninsula-site-specific-groups/>