

Name of the project	Northern Cancer Alliance Framework for Public Involvement.
Aim of the project	To develop new ways of working that ensure people affected by cancer are involved in all aspects of the Northern Cancer Alliance work plan.
Who was involved	A steering group consisting of people affected by cancer and professionals from health, local authority and third sector organisations.
Project approach	<p>The Macmillan funded project adopted a co design approach. This involved a project steering group whose members worked to together to design a framework for public involvement. They achieved this by working in partnership with each other, consulting with the Alliance support team and speaking to members of the community and organisations such as Healthwatch. These discussions helped them to understand what good involvement should look like and what the barriers for involvement may be for people.</p> <p>The steering group focussed on reducing inequalities by ensuring they were inclusive in their discussions with members of the community. This involved speaking to cancer support groups from the major tumour groups, members of the community who may experience poorer cancer outcomes and seldom listened to groups.</p> <p>An important element of this work included ensuring that as those involved received feedback on how their contributions had supported the development of the framework.</p> <p>During the initial stages of this work creating a shared vision and communicating this vision to others was sometimes challenging for the steering group. They were able to overcome this by creating a visual representation of their plans. This representation consisted of a house and the garden it stood in. This approach allowed members of the group and key stakeholders to understand the development of the public involvement framework (the structure of the house) and the growing garden (the development of collaborative partnerships).</p>
The impact of having people involved in this project	<p>By working in partnership with each other and listening to the views and ideas of the wider community, the steering group designed a framework for public involvement. The framework supports a culture within the Northern Cancer Alliance where public involvement central to all aspects of their work. The steering group have also completed a number of practical actions that have integrated the framework into the day-to-day business of the Alliance. For an overview of these actions please click here.</p> <p>The partnerships and relationships formed over the life of the project have cultivated the beginnings of a collaborative for public involvement. It is hoped that this will continue to develop into the future ensuring that the people from all sections of the community have the opportunity to become involved in the work of the Alliance.</p>

For further information
about this project

Joannemackintosh@nhs.net



**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

NHS
**Northern
Cancer Alliance**