

A cancer symptoms awareness campaign in East Berkshire and the Thames Valley launching in Spring 2011

Are you available next week for just 90 minutes to give your ideas on how the NHS locally can raise awareness of cancer symptoms to the general public? If so, you need to send an email now -everyone who takes parts will be given a payment of £30.

The only qualification for attending is that you live in Berkshire and want to see more lives saved from cancer.

Thames Valley Cancer Network is holding sessions at The Centre Conference Venue, Farnham Road, Slough, Berks, SL1 4UT to get local people's ideas of how to engage the public about cancer and cancer symptoms.

The sessions are on

**Monday, 17th of January at 1pm and 3pm
and**

Friday January 21st at 5pm

If you are interested in attending, please email focus.groups@tvcn.nhs.uk or ring Vicky on 01865 857156.

A total of 1,124 people in Berkshire East were reported and diagnosed as having cancer in 2009. Latest figures show that the disease is at the more advanced stages before it is even discovered in a third (32%) of those diagnosed from Berkshire East.

The figures showed that only four in 10 of people with cancer were referred by their GP with suspected cancer symptoms. Many of the remaining patients were referred to hospital for other health problems and only found to have cancer once other tests were done. Many patients only found they had cancer after a visit to a hospital Accident and Emergency department.

So, your views are important to help shape an important campaign that is due to launch in Berkshire in early March.