

The Early Action on Cancer Pilot

Community. Connector Info Pack

Welcome to the Community Connector Programme

Welcome, and thank you for your interest in becoming a Community Connector.

This pilot project has been developed by Leeds Involving People (LIP) to help raise awareness of cancer within Chapeltown and Harehills. We know that some people face barriers to recognising symptoms, accessing screening, or seeking help from their GP. Through this project, we want to help make conversations about cancer more open and encourage people to take action if something doesn't feel right.

Community Connectors are an important part of the project. As trusted members of your community, you'll help share clear, accurate information, encourage conversations, and signpost people to the right services when appropriate.

Just as importantly, we want to learn from you. You'll help us understand the questions people ask, the concerns they have, and the barriers they face. This feedback will help us improve the resources we develop and share learning with healthcare partners so they can better understand the communities they serve.

This is a small pilot project, and we're not expecting Community Connectors to become experts or spend lots of time volunteering. Instead, we're looking for people who are willing to use the conversations they're already having within their communities to help spread important messages and support this piece of work. Thank you for taking the time to find out more. We hope you'll enjoy being part of the project and helping us test a new way of working with local communities.

About Leeds Involving People

Leeds Involving People (LIP) is an independent charity that has been working alongside people and communities across Leeds for almost 30 years.

Our role is to make sure that people's voices are heard and that services are shaped by the experiences of those who use them. We work with communities, health and care organisations, and local partners to improve services through engagement, consultation and co-production.

We believe that the people who use services are best placed to influence how they are designed and delivered. That's why everything we do is built around listening to communities, understanding people's experiences and working together to find practical solutions.

Over the years, we've supported thousands of people to share their views on a wide range of health and care issues, helping organisations better understand the needs of local communities.

Our work includes:

- Delivering community engagement and consultation projects.
- Supporting people to influence health and care services.
- Running community forums and networks.
- Delivering training and awareness sessions.
- Working with partners to reduce health inequalities.
- Ensuring communities are involved in decisions that affect them.

Through the Early Action on Cancer Pilot, we're bringing together our experience of community engagement with the knowledge and passion of local residents to help raise awareness of cancer, encourage earlier diagnosis, and strengthen relationships between communities and healthcare services.

At LIP, we believe that meaningful change happens when communities are listened to, involved and empowered to shape the services they use.

About the Project

The Early Action on Cancer Pilot is a 12-month community project led by LIP, developed to raise awareness of cancer, encourage people to recognise the early signs and symptoms, improve understanding of cancer screening, and help people feel more confident about seeking advice from their GP if something doesn't feel right. The pilot focuses on Chapeltown and Harehills, where communities may experience additional barriers to accessing healthcare and are at greater risk of later-stage cancer diagnosis.

Rather than expecting people to attend hospitals or clinics for information, we'll be taking the project into the community by working in trusted local venues and alongside local organisations.

What will the project involve?

Throughout the project we will:

- Recruit and support 6-8 Community Connectors from local communities.
- Deliver Community Connector training to build confidence and provide information about cancer awareness, early diagnosis and signposting.
- Hold co-production workshops where Community Connectors will help shape the project's resources and identify the questions, concerns and barriers people experience.
- Develop a simple WhatsApp-ready information pack with clear, accessible messages that can easily be shared through community networks.
- Deliver four community awareness sessions in trusted local venues across Chapeltown and Harehills.
- Encourage Community Connectors to continue having informal conversations and sharing information within their own communities throughout the project.
- Gather feedback from residents and Community Connectors to understand what works well and identify any barriers people face when accessing healthcare.
- Produce a short learning report to share with healthcare partners and help inform future community engagement work.

What are we hoping to achieve?

By the end of the pilot, we hope to:

- Increase awareness of the early signs and symptoms of cancer.
- Improve understanding of cancer screening programmes.
- Increase people's confidence to contact their GP if they have concerns.
- Reduce some of the fear and misconceptions surrounding cancer.
- Better understand the barriers local communities face when accessing healthcare.
- Develop practical resources that can continue to be used after the project has finished.
- Share learning with local healthcare services to help improve future engagement with communities.

This is a pilot project, so we're also interested in learning what works well and how community-led approaches like this could be developed further in the future.

What is a Community Connector?

Community Connectors are trusted members of the community who help share important health messages and encourage conversations that can make a positive difference.

You don't need any medical knowledge or previous experience to become a Community Connector. We'll provide all the training, information and resources you need.

As a Community Connector, you'll use your existing relationships and networks to help raise awareness of cancer, encourage people to seek help if something doesn't feel right, and share reliable information within your community.

You'll also help us understand the experiences of local people by feeding back common questions, concerns and barriers. This will help us improve our resources and support healthcare services to better understand and engage with the communities they serve.

By working together, Community Connectors help build trust, improve awareness and ensure that important health messages reach the people who need them most.

Your Role as a Community Connector

As a Community Connector, you'll help us raise awareness of cancer and encourage earlier diagnosis by sharing trusted information within your community. It's about using the relationships and conversations you already have to help people access the right information and support.

As part of your role, you will:

- Share accurate information about cancer awareness and screening.
- Encourage people to seek advice from their GP if they have concerns.
- Help reduce fear and misconceptions by having supportive conversations.
- Signpost people to trusted services and sources of information.
- Share the project's resources through your own networks, where appropriate.
- Attend Community Connector training and occasional catch-up sessions.
- Help us understand the experiences of local communities by feeding back common questions, concerns and barriers.
- Support community awareness events if you're available.

Remember, every conversation doesn't have to be about cancer. Sometimes simply sharing a leaflet, forwarding a WhatsApp message or encouraging someone to attend screening can make a real difference.

What you won't be expected to do

As a Community Connector, you are not expected to:

- Give medical advice.
- Diagnose or interpret symptoms.
- Persuade anyone to make healthcare decisions.
- Provide counselling or ongoing support.
- Know the answer to every question.

If someone asks you something you're unsure about, don't worry. We'll make sure you know where to find reliable information and who to signpost people to if they need further support.

Training & Support

You don't need any previous experience or medical knowledge to become a Community Connector. We'll provide the training and support you need to feel confident in your role.

During the project you will receive:

- An introductory training session covering cancer awareness, early signs and symptoms, screening, signposting and your role as a Community Connector.
- A Community Connector information pack with useful resources and key contacts.
- Opportunities to help shape the project's resources through co-production workshops.
- Regular updates and ongoing support from the Leeds Involving People team.
- A named member of staff you can contact if you have any questions or need advice.

We're not expecting you to remember everything from the training. We'll provide resources that you can refer back to whenever you need them, and we're always here to support you.

Most importantly, we want you to feel confident having conversations and knowing where to direct people for further help if needed.

Time Commitment

The Community Connector role is flexible and should fit around your existing commitments. We ask Community Connectors to commit to approximately 4 hours per month over the course of the project.

This includes:

- One introductory training session.
- One co-production workshop.
- Occasional Community Connector catch-up meetings.
- Time to share project information through your own networks when opportunities arise.

There is no expectation that you'll volunteer every week or attend every event. We understand that everyone has different commitments, and we appreciate any time you can give.

The role is intended to fit naturally around your day-to-day life, making the most of the conversations and connections you already have within your community.

July-Sept 26	Community Connectors are recruited and attend their introductory training.
Sept-Oct 26	Co-production workshop takes place and project resources are finalised.
Oct 26-Feb 27	Community awareness sessions are delivered, and Connectors share information / have conversations.
March 27	Feedback is gathered, the project is evaluated, and learning is shared with partners.

Interested?

Thank you for taking the time to read about the Early Action on Cancer Pilot and the Community Connector role.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

How to apply

Complete our online application form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/KQB7jnp1Je>

If you would prefer a paper or electronic copy of the application form, please email us and we'll be happy to send one to you.

 Email: **info@leedsinvolvement.org.uk**

 Telephone: **0113 237 4508**

Key dates

Application deadline: Friday 7 August 2026

Community Connector training: W/C Monday 17 August 2026

If you have any questions before applying, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're always happy to have a chat about the role and answer any questions you may have.

We look forward to welcoming our first group of Community Connectors and working together to help raise awareness of cancer across Chapeltown and Harehills.