

**Northern Cancer Voices**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – 3.00pm**

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**Attendees:**

**In the room** -Thomas Monaghan – Trustee; Jane Dennison – Trustee; Claire Hawkes – Trustee; Mike Walker – Trustee  
Liam Davidson – Trustee; Michael Yare – NCV Admin; Vanessa Thompson – NCV minute taker; Mel Nelson – IT; Steve Cattle –  
NCV Patient Rep; Sarah Kucukmetin – South Tyneside Health Collaboration; Cllr Ken Dawes – ST patient rep; Jayne Herring –  
NCA; Jackie Jamieson – NCA; Lucy Patterson - -NCV NOTG; Alex Hudson – KP Simpson  
Rebecca Gilling – Northumbria Healthcare; Julie Garg – NCV STSFT; Andreas Neophytou – NENC NCV; Nadeesha Tharangani –  
NCV Bookkeeper (interested in paid role); Julie Stephens – HealthWorks; Debbie Quinn – Healthworks; Tay Wight – Teesside;  
Tori Bradison – CEO

**On Teams** – Patrick Mayne – NCV coordinator; Susan Lee – Trustee (newly appointed)

**Apologies:** Ann – NCV Teesside; Claire – NCV Teesside; Blessing – NCV South Tyneside; Lorna Joice – NCV Operations Director;  
Caroline Tweedie –South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust; Deb Spraggon – South Tyneside and Sunderland Trust; William  
Cruickshank – Northumberland Patient Carer Group; Kate Lovelock – Northern Gas Network; Akash Kvy – NCV North of Tyne  
and Gateshead

**Itinerary:**

1. Welcome and Introductions (incl housekeeping)
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Approval of previous AGM Minutes
4. CEO Reflections
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Trustees
7. Appointment of Auditors
8. Future Plans and Strategy
9. Open Floor for Questions and Discussions
10. Any Other Business
11. Close and Networking

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

Claire Hawkes – Interim Chair – welcomed everyone to the first AGM as a registered charity. All attendees introduced themselves.

## **2. Apologies for Absence were announced**

## **3. Approval of previous AGM Minutes**

The Minutes were approved.

## **4. Reflections from the CEO:**

Referring to the presentation – and particularly to the slides ‘Our Strategic Fit’ and ‘What have we done ... ’ - Tori reflected as follows:

4.1 Introduction – This first official Annual General Meeting is a milestone and Tori pointed out that this significant step reflected the growth and formalisation of the charity since its inception in 2019.

4.2 Overview of Growth - Since 2019, the organisation has gone from strength to strength, responding to both community need and collective desire for improved cancer support services. This growth is attributed to sustained effort, strategic planning, and meaningful partnerships.

4.3 Origin and Development - Tori provided a summary of the organisation’s journey:

- The initiative began as a network of individuals united by a common goal — to provide consolidated feedback into an app designed to support improvements across the cancer pathway.
- Initial groundwork took place between 2019 and 2020, involving collaboration with various stakeholders in cancer care.
- As regional relationships grew, the scale of the work increased, prompting the creation of a three-year development plan, formally launched in 2021.

4.4 Formal Constitution - In 2023, the organisation was officially constituted as a charity. Key steps included:

- Recruitment of Trustees
- Appointment of an accountant
- Funding from Northern Gas by way of their ‘Treat, Heat or Eat’ project

4.5 Community Feedback and Data Collection

- An online survey was developed to gather insights from those affected by cancer. While well-received, uptake was limited.
- Tori shared these insights with the National Cancer Team, noting that community members are often subject to excessive surveying, underscoring the importance of face-to-face engagement.
- The organisation is now exploring AI-driven data collection methods, which have already yielded the highest volume of responses to date.

4.6 Local Events - Funding from South Tyneside enabled the hosting of a successful community event in Jarrow, with positive engagement. Additional funds have been secured to hold a similar event in Sunderland.

4.7 Future Funding Opportunities - Ken offered support in identifying further funding avenues.

**Action:** Tori to arrange a meeting with Ken in South Shields to explore potential funding strategies. **CLOSED Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> April – Digital Voices and Prostate Cancer projects initiated**

4.8 Acknowledgements - Tori expressed her sincere gratitude to all those involved in the journey so far.

4.9 Reasons for Success - When asked why the organisation has been so effective, Tori highlighted several key factors:

- Strong and genuine relationships
- The personal impact of cancer (affecting 1 in 2 people)
- Right timing and collaboration with the right people
- A shared commitment to the cause

## 5. Treasurer's Report:

Liam went over the figures in the Annual Finance Summary and the Key Funding Received tables of the presentation slide. He reiterated that most funding is from Northern Gas Network.

## 6. Election of Trustees

6.1 Claire announced that Susan Lee has been welcomed as a new Trustee and formally proposed her as such. Jane Dennison seconded the proposal and there were no objections.

6.2 Susan Lee outlined a bit of her history, including that she was a McMillan Nurse, worked in a unit at Middlesbrough Hospital and worked with Darlington FC. She was the first social subscriber in cancer care in Stockton where the focus was on cancer voices and what gaps there were. She now works across 38 GP practices, her role being to help professionals understand the need of carers. She also works with the community to find those carers. Susan still has many connections with the Northern Cancer Alliance.

### **7. Appointment of Auditors:**

It was confirmed that it's time to renew the auditors; the accountants – K P Simpson – will be kept on board.

### **8. Future Plans and Strategy**

8.1 Tori referred to the Organisation Chart slide, reiterating what an amazing Board of Trustees it now was and especially so with Susan about to be added to it. In her absence, a special mention was made to Lorna, who will be coming in to run the organisation.

8.2 Future Planning - Northern Cancer Voices covers a wide area – Whitehaven to Berwick and Durham to Stockton. It was brought to everyone's attention that there's nobody currently operating in North Cumbria. Mike made the comment that he thought it was important to remain in North Cumbria as it's so isolated.

8.3 Six NCV support groups have been committed to this year.

8.4 It was pointed out that travel costs are significant and that there's a need to build a case study re non-attendance of appointments. Co-ordination of appointments is a challenge because of distances but it's a potential massive opportunity.

8.5 Strategies for going forward were outlined as follows:

- Drive improvements with feedback gained
- Improve communications
- Seek funding
- Recruit volunteers
- Build and foster more corporate relationships – there's a need to tap into this.

8.6 Tori shared details about an exciting storytelling project led by a lady called Lesley, who wrote a play based on her experience of losing her husband to cancer. Lesley is now inviting others to share their stories, which will be brought to life through digital storytelling with the help of actors. There is interest in finding more participants. Patrick praised the project for offering a safe, creative space, noting that stories can be shared anonymously or with avatars for those uncomfortable appearing on screen.

## **9. Open Floor for Questions and Discussions**

9.1 **What is the biggest challenge?** - Funding – NGN funding has been great but it's a bit restrictive. Trust and Foundations / Individual / Corporate – there's a need to tap into these going forward.

9.2 **What does the Charity look like when it's 'stabilised' ?** - The Board should discuss this.

### **ACTION**

9.3 **How do we get feedback into the relevant organisations which will in turn create funding opportunity?** - Tori commented that finding the opportunity is the biggest challenge.

9.4 **How do you go about finding Corporate Funding?** - The suggested answer was to look at local corporates and to look at their key areas of interest. We need to know what our key selling point is. A discussion took place about how a shift is happening within corporate organisations in that they want to focus more on smaller, relatable charities. Ken felt that smaller companies were worth targeting.

## **10. Any Other Business:**

10.1 Tori expressed her gratitude to the suppliers for all their kindness.

10.2 Claire showed everyone the QR code for feedback.

**Meeting ends at 1637**

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Tori to meet up with Ken to discuss funding opportunities / Closed
2. The Board to discuss what NCV will look like when it's '*stabilised*'