Biobanking for the public, by the public: reducing costs and increasing participation

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Wales Cancer Bank
What and Why?

- The Wales Cancer Bank has implemented a programme where (trained) members of the public consent patients to donate samples to the biobank

- Improving public involvement and engagement
- Sustainability
  - Social and Financial

- Fundamental review of first 10 years of activity
2014 review*

Looked at:
• Collection activity (by site)
• Samples requested and issued
• Processing requirements
• Where/how funding was allocated

• Potential impacts of changing:
  • collection strategy
  • types samples
  • consenting model

Cost v Benefit

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduce volunteer</td>
<td>Extensive training and supervision needed</td>
<td>Supplement clinician and/or nurse consenting</td>
<td>Investigate potential with one hospital to pilot*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased patient/public</td>
<td>patient/public involvement</td>
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<td>Increased social sustainability</td>
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* Velindre Cancer Centre - tertiary referral centre
The training programme was delivered as 4 sessions; 1 classroom based, 1 laboratory based, 1 mixed classroom and interactive session and hospital (clinic) based training.

Volunteers were evaluated before proceeding to the hospital based training.
Impact

- 52% increase in number of patients consented since the programme started

- Volunteers consented 44% of patients consented in Velindre in 2017

![Consenting in Velindre 2016/2017](image)
Impact

2016/17 - with volunteers

Result = a more sustainable (financially) collection site
Feedback

‘I feel comfortable talking to patients, they know we’re volunteers and can’t talk about their treatment, but the training prepared us well to talk about biobanking’

WCB Clinical Director

‘The training programme is fit-for-purpose and has been successfully reviewed by the Health and Care Research Wales Support Centre’

GCP Training Manager, HCRW

‘The volunteers have been eager to learn and their feedback has changed the way the ’professional’ staff are trained’

WCB Clinical Director

‘I look forward to Mondays and come away uplifted and hoping I have made a small difference to patients’ visits in a good way’

‘The volunteers have a very professional approach and I have no concerns over them talking to patients. They know when to step back and they work well with the clinical staff’

Oncologist
Acknowledgements

- Velindre Cancer Centre
  - Velindre Clinical Trials Unit
  - VCC patients
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  - Jean Hopkins
- Nottingham Health Science Biobank

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