

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Chilterns Prostate Cancer Support Group

Overview

On Saturday 12 October 2025, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and the Chilterns Prostate Cancer Support Group joined forces to deliver a landmark PSA blood-testing event at Wycombe Hospital. This first-of-its-kind collaboration within the Tackle network saw 240 men tested in a single day through a model that blended the community reach of a volunteer-led group with the clinical governance of the NHS.

How It Worked

The Trust handled all clinical and logistical responsibilities, booking appointments, providing trained phlebotomists, processing samples within NHS laboratories, and ensuring that all results and follow-up were managed through NHS pathways.

Meanwhile, the Chilterns Support Group mobilised a team of volunteers to promote the event through local outreach, leaflets, and community networks. On the day, volunteers provided a welcoming front-of-house presence, guiding attendees and supporting NHS staff to create an approachable, well-organised environment.

This partnership ensured that every man tested was safely held within NHS systems, eliminating the risk of results being missed or unmanaged, a common challenge in traditional community-run PSA events where outcomes bypass the GP.

Why It Matters

The event demonstrated that community-led awareness and engagement, when anchored in NHS accountability and governance, can deliver both scale and safety. It also highlighted the value of community networks in reaching men who might not otherwise engage with healthcare, a critical step toward reducing inequalities in prostate-cancer diagnosis.

Recent research by Padhani et al. (2025, Wiley) reinforces this approach, noting that:

“Early detection must occur within structured, quality-assured pathways with defined clinical accountability to avoid variation and ensure safety.”

The authors argue that community partnerships integrated with NHS systems are essential to closing equity gaps and transforming prostate-cancer outcomes, a message brought vividly to life through the Wycombe event.

Alignment with National Priorities

This approach directly reflects the priorities set out in key national reports and strategies

- The NPCA State of the Nation report calls for earlier diagnosis, consistent pathways, and reduced regional variation.

- The Prostate Cancer Research (PCR) Socio-Economic Impact Report evidences the cost-effectiveness of targeted, risk-based testing within NHS frameworks.
- The NHS Long Term Plan and CORE20PLUS5 initiative emphasise tackling inequalities and diagnosing 75 per cent of cancers at stages I or II by 2028

By combining community engagement with NHS governance, the Wycombe model provides a practical route to deliver these national ambitions.

Learning and Next Steps

Success factors included

- Clear division of responsibility between NHS clinicians and community volunteers
- Robust booking and laboratory systems ensuring safety and follow-up
- Consistent messaging and coordination between partners

Next steps:

- Encourage replicating the model through other Tackle network groups and local Cancer Alliances
- Use outreach to reach seldom-heard and higher-risk communities, reducing diagnostic inequality

Summary

The Wycombe Hospital PSA testing event exemplifies how community energy and NHS structure can work together to deliver safer, fairer, and more effective early detection. It is a model that embodies the direction advocated by national experts and offers a replicable blueprint for best practice across the Tackle network and beyond.