



March 2026 Policy Collective Update

I hope you are well. As a member of **Blood Cancer UK's Policy Collective**, I am pleased to be able to share with you the latest update on our policy activity across the UK from the last three months.

The Policy Collective is made up of members of our [Involvement network](#) who want to help shape and review our responses to public consultations, shout about and share our policy and campaigns activity, inform and test our policy campaigns and projects, and help the Policy & Influencing team prioritise our activities – or just want to hear regular updates from us about the work we're doing. **A couple of open opportunities to get involved in our work are listed at the bottom of this email!**

If you have any questions, or would like some more information about the topics outlined, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Policy & Influencing team at policy@bloodcancer.org.uk.

England

National Cancer Plan for England

On World Cancer Day 2026, the UK Government published its National Cancer for England. We've long called for a national plan that could improve survival and quality of life, so this is a significant moment for people living in England with blood cancer. We've [written a blog](#) on what the Plan means for our community, and what Blood Cancer UK will be doing to ensure these actions are delivered.

For our Policy Collective members, **we've also pulled together a document** (see attached) which outlines how the plan aligns with the recommendations in our UK Blood Cancer Action Plan. We'd also like to say a huge thank you to Policy Collective member, Mel Plumridge, who first took our calls for a National Cancer Plan to 10 Downing Street 3 years ago and has since helped us secure our relationship with Stewart Andrew MP – which led to him raising our points at a debate on the plan in Westminster!

Rare Cancers Bill Update

We're delighted that last Friday, the Rare Cancers Bill received Royal Assent and became law. The Rare Cancers Act 2026 will help drive better research, improved data collection, and greater access to clinical trials for people affected by rare cancers, including some blood cancers. We've [proudly supported the Act](#) throughout its journey and we're grateful to all members of our community who wrote to their MP asking them to support it during its passage through Parliament.



The blood cancer workforce

In December 2025, a Westminster Hall Debate took place which explored the impact of NHS workforce levels on cancer patients. We were pleased to support Clive Jones MP and Scott Arthur MP prior to the debate, enabling them to raise the specific challenges faced by the blood cancer community. The [following blog](#) takes an in-depth look at how workforce policy set in Westminster impacts on wards across England. We're now looking to the publication of the 10-year NHS Workforce Plan – due in Spring.

New Health Minister

We've also written to Sharon Hodgson MP following her appointment as the new Minister at the Department of Health and Social Care. We look forward to working with her to deliver real progress for people affected by blood cancer. Ms Hodgson replaced Ashley Dalton MP who, despite living with cancer, impressively led the development of the National Cancer Plan and measures to improve cancer outcomes.

Scotland

The Scottish Cancer Coalition's 2026 Manifesto

This week the Scottish Cancer Coalition (SCC) [launched their manifesto](#) for the 2026 Scottish Parliament Election. The SCC is a collection of 32 charities who operate in Scotland and challenge Ministers, the Scottish Government and NHS Scotland to develop and deliver first class cancer research, prevention, and treatment services.

The SCC are calling on the Scottish Government to deliver the following asks:

1. Deliver on the 10-year cancer strategy.
2. Partner with charities and communities.
3. Reduce inequalities in cancer outcomes.
4. Involve patients and families.
5. Deliver the children and young people cancer strategy.

We have been feeding the asks from our own manifesto, [Blood cancer in Scotland: We know what it takes](#), into the SCC's manifesto working group. As a result, the manifesto includes several commitments which match our organisational priorities, including incentivising meaningful partnerships with cancer charities to support those living with cancer. Blood Cancer UK is also supporting the SCC to set up and run a hustings event with candidates from the 6 largest political parties in Scotland – which we will share a summary of.

Wales

Blood cancer facilities in Wales

On 15 January, the Wales Cancer Alliance gave us a slot at its biannual meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Social Care to raise concerns we have with blood cancer facilities in Wales. We expressed our concerns and asked for an update on University Hospital Wales Cardiff and Vale's business case for a new haematology day unit. On 2



February, the Cabinet Secretary approved £2.6 million for an extension to the Haematology Day unit.

This is a huge win and should see improvements to outpatient facilities over the coming years. However, other issues persist and we continue to engage with decision makers on finding appropriate solutions – including through opportunities via the Velindre Cancer Centre expansion, who we're waiting for a response from.

Opportunities to get involved

There are a couple of involvement opportunities open that we'd be happy to share more information on, if you're interested, including:

- **User testing our webpages and e-action tool for the Devolved Elections (May 2026)**
 - We are still looking for members of the Involvement Network to help us test our new webpages and e-action tool for the Scottish and Welsh elections. This will involve taking part in a 30-minute video call, where a member of the Policy & Influencing team will ask you to explore and navigate around the new webpages. If you are available the week commencing 16th March and happy to help, please contact us on policy@bloodcancer.org.uk.
- **Co-designing the Policy Collective webpage**
 - In the coming months, we'll be designing a webpage which will host a range of information about the Policy Collective. We'll be in touch about this opportunity in the next few months.

If you are interested in helping with any of these opportunities, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,
Josh, and the rest of Blood Cancer UK's Policy & Influencing team!