

A Community of Practice: Improving cancer care through conversation, collaboration and innovation

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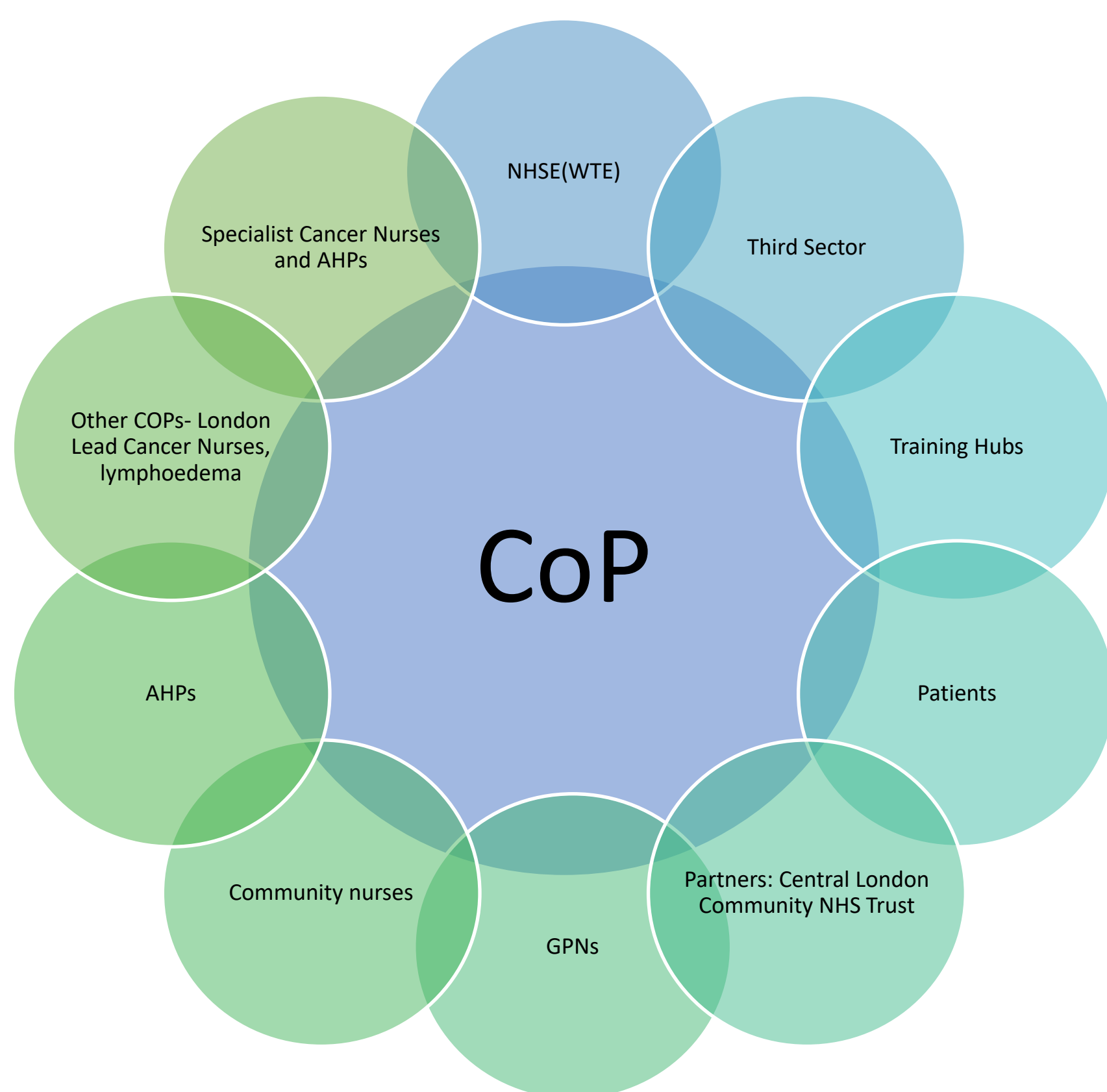
Background

This regional cancer Community of Practice (CoP) emerged from a regional cancer educational project and strategic primary care cancer nursing programme.

The need to improve the out of hospital cancer patient experience (Picker 2023) and the education needs of General Practice Nursing (Dyer and Dewhurst 2019), community nursing (Dyer et al 2021) and the Allied Health Professional (AHP) workforce are key drivers of this project.

The CoP is multi-professional, working across system boundaries to provide opportunities for peer learning, connectivity, and collaborative working. It provides opportunities for sharing good practice and a collective voice to develop a community of influence for policy and practice (Donaldson et al 2011.)

Collaborations



Methods - working together

A steering group was established with patient partners, primary care and community nurses, Allied Health Professionals (AHPs), and key cancer specialists. Funding was secured for 2023-24 activities via NHS England (WT&E Directorate).

Engagement and discussion activities were conducted face to face and online. The success of an initial face-to-face launch, led to the development of educational and networking events, webinars and interactive videos.

Steering group and CoP members planned and delivered the content for the webinars and shared their work at the face-to-face events.

QI projects or work conducted by the CoP members was shared at the face-to-face workshops. Use of innovative liberating structure methods supported group discussion and creativity (Lipmanowicz and McCandles 2013.)

Cross professional boundary spanning group work in cancer alliance groupings provide opportunity for ongoing relationships and projects.

The promotional video pictured below created helped share the CoP message. across the system.



Watch the full video using the QR code opposite

Conversations and results

What do our members say?

"Cancer is now a long-term condition, and people are living longer with advanced treatment. Patients need ongoing support in the community, and this platform provides an opportunity to develop skills in cancer care to support them through their long-term management."
Cancer Nurse Specialist

"The Cancer Community of Practice provides a fantastic opportunity, not only for learning but for collaboration between the sectors. It enables a better understanding of each other's roles so that we can work together to deliver the best outcomes for the patients. The webinars have been a great way to enhance cancer knowledge and learn about other services available to cancer patients."
Enhanced and Supportive Care Lead Nurse

"Speaking as a cancer survivor, getting good support from primary care is so important at whatever stage in someone's cancer journey. Sadly, at the time I was going through my recovery this support was hard to find. The practice nurse is well placed to provide this, and the cancer COP plays a really important part in developing this knowledge and skill."
Bonnie (patient partner)

"There is a real value in the shared learning and innovation of meeting together as a group. Cancer care is not always well understood by community and primary care nurses...this gives an opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and confidence when dealing with this group of patients."
Macmillan Director of cancer nursing and palliative care

Year 2023	Event Type	Topic	Signed-up	Attended	Learning
21 Feb	f2f	Launch Cancer Community of Practice	37	17	Shadow opportunities
12 Apr	webinar	Clinical Leadership	97	73	Online resource
3 May	webinar	Enhanced Supportive Care	83	57	Online resource
21 Jun	f2f	Quality Improvement (QI)	57	39	Start of QI ideas
12 Jul	webinar	Cancer Rehab & Lymphoedema	92	69	Shadow opportunities Online resource
18 Sep	Webinar	Cognitive impairment, Dementia and Delirium	230	105	Online resource
18 Oct	F2F	Quality Improvement in practice	51	32	Replicable QI models Shared learning/ resources
Total			647	360 +	

Community of Practice outputs: 2023/24

- ❑ Held 4 lunchtime webinar events in 2023; April, May, July, and September, and 3 further webinar events planned in 2023/24
- ❑ CoP 1 Year Celebration Event planned on 7 March 2024
- ❑ Development of CoP dedicated webpage, resources and NHS futures online discussion forum
- ❑ Shadowing opportunities created via CoP in-person events
- ❑ Joint authorship, with a patient partner of UKONs abstract
- ❑ A communications and engagement focus has resulted in over 150 members signed up to an exclusive mailing list and regular newsletters. National interest in webinars.
- ❑ GPN Cancer fellowships planned launch in Q4 – aligned to the cancer COP and London regional cancer team.

Conclusion

The CoP continues to develop as a multi-professional community. The early evidence from feedback shows the CoP promotes a long-term sustainable interactive learning environment for all stakeholders through active engagement.

The boundary spanning aspect of the group provides opportunity for collaboration across integrated care systems. Our work will continue to evolve with member's expert and active contributions and further funding being sought for 2024-25.

References

- Donaldson et al 2011 Communities of Influence – improving healthcare through conversation and connections .Routledge . London
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SCAN ME

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