

CAN YOU  ME?

MERTON

CANCER CONFERENCE

2026

IMPACT & EVALUATION REPORT



Advancing Equity: Innovations in Cancer Research
and Treatment for BME Individuals
21 April 2026 | Everyday Church Wimbledon

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Merton Can You C Me? Cancer Conference 2026 brought together healthcare leaders, researchers, community organisations, policy representatives, people with lived experience and local residents to explore innovative approaches to addressing cancer inequalities affecting Black and Minority Ethnic communities across South West London.

Delivered through the Can You C Me? project, a partnership between Croydon BME Forum and Macmillan Cancer Support, the conference formed part of a wider programme aimed at reducing health inequalities, improving awareness of cancer prevention and early diagnosis, increasing access to support services, and ensuring that the voices of underserved communities are represented within cancer care and policy discussions.

Held at Everyday Church Wimbledon on 21 April 2026, the event welcomed over 100 attendees from across South West London, with 200 individuals registered to attend. The conference featured contributions from healthcare professionals, researchers, community advocates and individuals with lived experience, creating a unique platform for learning, collaboration, networking and knowledge exchange.

A key theme throughout the day was the importance of amplifying lived experience. Powerful presentations from cancer survivors and community leaders provided insight into the realities of diagnosis, treatment and recovery, helping to bridge the gap between healthcare services, policy and the communities they serve.

The conference also highlighted innovative work taking place across healthcare, academia and the voluntary sector to improve cancer outcomes, reduce barriers to screening and treatment, and address the inequalities that continue to affect Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Evaluation feedback demonstrated a highly positive response from attendees:

- 94% of respondents rated the conference positively.
- 97% rated the speakers as Good or Excellent.
- 97% rated the venue and facilities positively.
- The average recommendation score was 9.25 out of 10.
- 83% agreed that the conference successfully addressed racial disparities and amplified the voices of marginalised communities.

Attendees particularly valued the diversity of speakers, lived experience testimonies, networking opportunities and the inclusive atmosphere created throughout the day. Many described the event as inspiring, informative and empowering, highlighting the importance of continuing conversations around cancer inequalities and equitable access to care.

The success of the conference demonstrates the value of bringing together communities, healthcare providers, researchers and decision-makers to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships and drive meaningful action. The findings presented within this report highlight the positive impact of the event and reinforce the ongoing need for collaborative approaches to reducing cancer inequalities across South West London.

CAN YOU ME?

About the Can You C Me? Project

The Can You C Me? project is a Macmillan-funded initiative led by Croydon BME Forum, working across six London boroughs to improve cancer care awareness, access, and experiences for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. Through a combination of outreach, support, lived experience engagement, and professional collaboration, we are working to reduce inequalities and break down barriers in cancer care.

Our Network

The image below showcases the wide network of partners, organisations, and services we've built strong relationships with. From NHS trusts and hospices to grassroots community groups, each plays a vital role in supporting our shared mission of making cancer care more inclusive, equitable, and culturally responsive.



CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE



200

Registrations



100+

Attendees



9

Speakers



9

Exhibitors and
Stallholders



36

Evaluation Responses



94%

Positive Event Rating



9.25/10

Average
Recommendation
score



83%

Agreed the Conference
Addressed Racial
Disparities

CAN YOU C ME?

WHY THIS CONFERENCE MATTERS

Cancer affects individuals and families from all backgrounds. However, despite significant advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, evidence continues to demonstrate inequalities in cancer awareness, screening, diagnosis, treatment and outcomes among Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Research referenced by the Can You C Me? project highlights that Black people are significantly less likely to be diagnosed through cancer screening pathways than their White counterparts. These disparities can contribute to later diagnoses, poorer outcomes and reduced access to support services. Such findings reinforce the importance of improving awareness, encouraging earlier engagement with screening programmes and ensuring that cancer services are accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of diverse communities.

The Can You C Me? project was established to address these challenges through education, community engagement, partnership working and advocacy. Funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and delivered by Croydon BME Forum, the project works across six South West London boroughs:

• **Croydon • Merton • Sutton • Wandsworth • Richmond • Kingston**

Through a combination of outreach, lived experience engagement, awareness-raising activities and professional collaboration, the project seeks to reduce health inequalities, improve access to support services and ensure that the voices of underserved communities are heard and represented.

The Merton Can You C Me? Cancer Conference 2026 formed part of this wider programme of work. Bringing together healthcare professionals, researchers, community organisations, policy leaders and people with lived experience, the conference provided an opportunity to explore innovative approaches to reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for Black and Minority Ethnic communities.



By creating a space for learning, discussion and collaboration, the conference aimed to strengthen partnerships, increase awareness of available support, amplify lived experience voices and inspire collective action towards more equitable cancer care.

Conference Objectives

The conference sought to:

- **Raise awareness of cancer inequalities affecting Black and Minority Ethnic communities.**
- **Improve understanding of barriers to cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment.**
- **Showcase innovation and emerging developments in cancer research and care.**
- **Promote available support services and community resources.**
- **Strengthen collaboration between healthcare providers, researchers and local communities.**
- **Amplify the voices and experiences of people affected by cancer.**
- **Inspire action to improve equity, access and outcomes across the cancer pathway.**

While progress has been made in cancer care, there is still more work to be done. Croydon BME Forum, Macmillan Cancer Support and their partners remain committed to working alongside communities to challenge inequalities, raise awareness and help create lasting improvements in cancer outcomes for all.



A DAY OF LEARNING, REFLECTION AND CONNECTION

The conference programme combined expert presentations, lived experience testimonies, networking opportunities, community engagement and interactive discussions.

Arrival and Registration

Attendees from across South West London gathered at Everyday Church Wimbledon, creating opportunities for networking and relationship building before the formal programme began.



Welcome and Introduction

The conference was hosted by Kaydian Parris, who guided attendees through a day focused on equity, awareness and action.

Opening remarks set the tone for discussions around cancer inequalities and the importance of community-led approaches to improving outcomes.



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Expert Perspectives

Attendees heard from healthcare leaders, clinicians and policy experts who shared insights into screening, treatment, prevention and health inequalities.



Lived Experience Voices

Powerful presentations from cancer survivors provided personal perspectives on diagnosis, treatment, resilience and recovery.



Networking and Community Marketplace

Nine organisations showcased services, resources and support available to communities affected by cancer.



Breakout Activities and Discussions

Attendees participated in interactive sessions that encouraged discussion, reflection and knowledge sharing

VOICES OF CHANGE

Amplifying Lived Experience

One of the most impactful aspects of the conference was the opportunity to hear directly from individuals with lived experience of cancer.

Their stories provided insight into the realities of diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and recovery while highlighting the importance of hope, resilience and community support.

Kierran Jarrett

Two-time leukaemia survivor, author and motivational speaker.

Kierran shared his remarkable journey through cancer treatment while completing university studies. His story demonstrated extraordinary determination and resilience, inspiring attendees to focus on what they can control during life's most challenging moments.

“What Can I Control?”



Deborah Klass

Breast cancer survivor and Chair of Trustees for The Windrush Generation Legacy Association.

Deborah spoke openly about her diagnosis, treatment and recovery, highlighting the importance of maintaining a positive mindset while acknowledging the challenges faced throughout her journey.

Dr Pearl Jarrett

Cancer survivor, entrepreneur, philanthropist and community leader.

Dr Jarrett shared how her diagnosis transformed her outlook on life and inspired a commitment to living with purpose, helping others and creating lasting impact within communities.



EXPERT PERSPECTIVES

The conference brought together experts from healthcare, research, academia and community leadership.



Gemma Peters

Chief Executive, Macmillan Cancer Support

Gemma highlighted the importance of addressing health inequalities and ensuring that the experiences of underserved communities shape future cancer services.

Mary Idowu

Deputy Director – Partnerships and Inequalities

Mary discussed the role of healthcare systems in reducing inequalities through partnership working, inclusion and community engagement.



Dr Farwa Hasan

GP Partner and Clinical Director

Dr Hasan explored the importance of primary care, prevention and education in addressing health inequalities.

Charmaine Case

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Charmaine highlighted the importance of breast screening, early diagnosis and community outreach.



Sabina

University College London Hospital

Sabina shared innovative approaches to supporting patients living beyond cancer treatment, with a particular focus on culturally responsive care.

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Nine organisations participated as exhibitors, providing attendees with information, resources and support.

Participating organisations included:

- **Macmillan Cancer Support**
- **St George's Hospital**
- **Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Unique Roots**
- **Happy Steps**
- **Citizens Advice Wandsworth and Croydon**
- **London South Bank University**

The marketplace provided valuable opportunities for networking and increased awareness of services available across South West London.



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WHAT ATTENDEES TOLD US

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees particularly valued hearing lived experiences, the diversity of speakers, the inclusive atmosphere and opportunities to learn and connect with others.

Overall Satisfaction



94% of respondents rated the conference **positively**.



97% rated the speakers as **Good or Excellent**.



97% rated the venue and facilities **positively**.

9.25/10.

Average recommendation score

Attendee Voices

“

“The vibes! It was incredible.”

”

“

“Very inclusive.”

”

“

“Everyone coming together.”

”

“

“Real life stories and experiences.”

”

“

“Mix of professionals and community voices.”

”

“

“The knowledge and awareness.”

”

“

“The whole experience was great.”

”





KEY THEMES FROM **FEEDBACK**

1

The Power of Lived Experience

Participants consistently highlighted personal stories and testimonies as the most impactful aspect of the day.

Learning and Awareness

Attendees valued opportunities to increase their knowledge of cancer inequalities, screening and support services

2

3

Community Connection

The event created opportunities for people from different backgrounds and sectors to come together and learn from one another.

Hope and Inspiration

Many attendees described the conference as uplifting, motivating and inspiring.

4

IMPACT AND **OUTCOMES**

Raising Awareness

The conference increased awareness of cancer inequalities and highlighted opportunities to improve outcomes within Black and Minority Ethnic communities.

Amplifying Marginalised Voices

Lived experience presentations ensured that patient perspectives remained central throughout the event.

Strengthening Partnerships

The conference brought together healthcare providers, researchers, community organisations and local residents, helping to strengthen relationships and encourage future collaboration.

Promoting Access to Support

Attendees gained greater awareness of available services and support pathways.

LOOKING AHEAD

The feedback received demonstrates a strong appetite for continued engagement and future conferences focused on cancer inequalities.

Attendees called for:

- **More events.**
- **Additional networking opportunities.**
- **Continued lived experience presentations.**
- **Greater awareness raising within communities.**
- **Ongoing partnership working.**

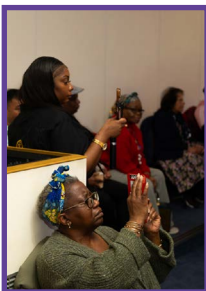
The Can You C Me? project remains committed to working alongside communities and partners to reduce inequalities and improve cancer outcomes

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking the time to attend, contribute to and support the Merton Can You C Me? Cancer Conference 2026.

Reducing cancer inequalities requires collaboration, community engagement and a commitment to ensuring that every individual has access to the information, support and care they need. We are grateful to our speakers, exhibitors, partners, volunteers and attendees for helping to make this conference a success.

Together, we can continue to raise awareness, amplify lived experience voices and work towards more equitable cancer outcomes for all communities



FURTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Company Name	Telephone Number	Website	Email address
Marie Curie	0800 716 146	www.mariecurie.org.uk	info@mariecurie.org.uk
African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT)	0203 757 7700	www.aclt.org	Info@aclt.org.uk
Macmillan Cancer Support	0808 808 0000	www.macmillan.org.uk	contact@macmillan.org.uk
MAGGIE'S	0300 1231 801	www.maggies.org	enquiries@maggies.org
Race Equality Foundation	020 7428 1880	raceequalityfoundation.org.uk/	admin@racefound.org.uk
Black in Cancer		www.blackincancer.com	blackincancer@gmail.com
Cancer Care Map		www.cancercaremap.org	
Errol McKellar Foundation		www.theerolmckellar-foundation.com	info@errolmckellar.com
Throat Cancer Foundation	0203 4754 065	www.throatcancerfoundation.org	hello@throatcancerfoundation.org
Melanoma UK	0808 171 2455	melanomauk.org.uk	info@melanomauk.org.uk
Blood Cancer Uk	0808 208 0888	bloodcancer.org.uk	support@bloodcancer.org

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FURTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Company Name	Telephone Number	Website	Email address
RM Partners		www.rmpartners.nhs.uk	rmpartners.info@nhs.net
Safeena Cancer Support		www.safeena.org.uk	info@safeena.org
multiculturalrichmond.org.uk	020 8893 9444	multiculturalrichmond.org.uk	hello@multiculturalrichmond.org.uk
Cancer Don't Let It Win	0333 33 55 916	Cancerdontletitwincic.org	Info@cancerdontletitwincic.com
Black women rising		blackwomenrisinguk.org	foundation@leannepero.com
Kingston Voluntary Action	0208 255 3335	kva.org.uk	admin@kva.org.uk
MILAAP Centre	0208 547 2887	www.milaapcentrekingston.org.uk	info@milaapcentrekingston.org.uk
Korean Community Centre	0741 318 5354	www.newmalden.org	info@newmalden.org
The Kingston Association for The Blind	0208 605 0060	www.kingstonassociationforblind.org	kab@kingstonassociationforblind.org
Tamil Centre	0777 002 9617	www.itc-uk.org	info@itc-uk.org
Kingston Race and Equalities Council	0208 547 2332	kingstonrec.org	info@kingstonrec.org

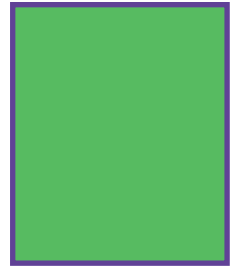
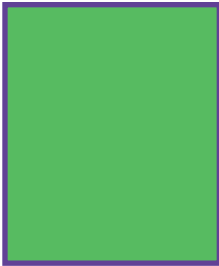
**PLEASE FILL OUT OUR
FEEDBACK FORM**



STAY CONNECTED

To learn more about the Can You C Me? project, upcoming events and community engagement opportunities, please visit our website or follow our latest updates online.

Working together to reduce cancer inequalities and improve outcomes
across South West London



CONTACT US

CAN YOU ME?

Can You C Me? Project

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Croydon
CR0 3RG

Website: www.canyoucme.org

Email: macmillanteam@bmeforum.org

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Cancer Support

Support Line: 0808 808 0000

Website: www.macmillan.org.uk

For information, practical support, financial guidance or emotional support relating to cancer, please contact Macmillan Cancer Support or visit their website.

Scan to view our website

