

Jo's cervical
cancer trust



UK

GENERAL

ELECTION

2019

MANIFESTO



Help us reach the day where no woman dies from cervical cancer and where it is a disease of the past.

In the next Parliament we are calling on the Government to:

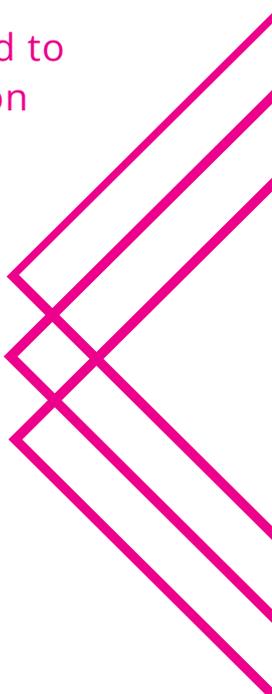
- 1.** Develop an action plan to eliminate cervical cancer
- 2.** Implement the recommendations set out in the Mike Richards Review of National Adult Screening Programmes
- 3.** Improve outcomes for those living with the long term effects of cervical cancer treatment
- 4.** Commit to ensuring the cancer workforce is equipped to meet the needs of the current and future cancer population



“ If it weren't for cervical screening my cancer never would have been picked up. It saved my life and I'm so grateful for the treatment I received. However, that doesn't mean it's been easy. Cancer has definitely impacted me emotionally as well as physically and I have been diagnosed with PTSD post-treatment. ”

-Rachel who was diagnosed with stage 1b cervical cancer in 2019

Support us in our vision to make cervical cancer a disease of the past



1. Develop an action plan to eliminate cervical cancer

Cervical screening is the best protection against cervical cancer and, through a combination of screening and the HPV vaccine, we know one day the disease can be eliminated. However, over 1 in 4 women are not attending screening when invited and the complex governance, commissioning and funding structures around the programme are highly complex, with outdated infrastructures further slowing progression.

An action plan to eliminate cervical cancer must include increasing cervical screening (smear test) uptake across all ages to 80%. This will require work to increase awareness among low-uptake groups; to make appointments more convenient and easy to access; the roll-out of self-sampling; and simple proven improvements like text message reminders.

5% of cancers are caused by the Human Papillomavirus and around 7,000 HPV cancers are diagnosed each year in the UK. If the number of HPV related cancer diagnoses is to decline, then it is essential that the HPV vaccination uptake remains high (at a minimum of 80%). Therefore, the government, NHS, public health bodies, local authorities, GPs and education providers must work together to increase understanding of the vaccine, tackle stigma and anti-vaccination misinformation to avoid catastrophes that have taken place in other countries around the world. The NHS Long Term Plan sets out a vision for people to live better and longer lives and preventing cancers is at the heart of this.

2. Implement the recommendations set out in the Mike Richards Review of National Adult Screening Programmes

We want to see a commitment to investing in a cervical screening programme which is clinically safe and fit for the future. This includes implementing many of the recommendation's set out in the Independent Review of Adult Screening Programmes conducted by Sir Mike Richards. We are currently failing women by not providing the best possible programme and urgently need improvements such as more accessible tests at GP practices, sexual health services, at specialist clinics for people who have survived trauma, and through self-sampling in a home setting. We are seeing a shift to personalised care in cancer and this should extend to prevention. Swift implementation of new technologies and research findings is essential, with initiatives which are proved successful in increasing participation rolled out nationally.

3. Improve outcomes for those living with the long term effects of cervical cancer treatment

Over 49,000 women are living with or beyond cervical cancer. Every woman diagnosed should be given the best possible care, treatment and support however, we know that many are dealing with the long term effects of their diagnosis and treatment alone.

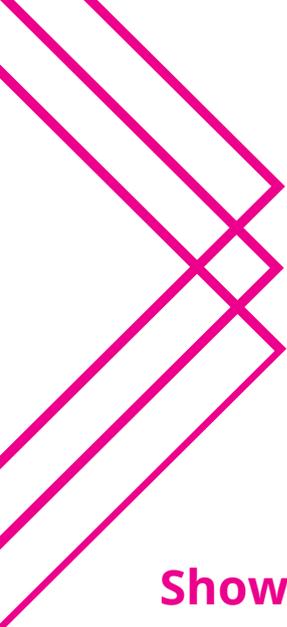
Our research has found that 88% of women have experienced at least one physical long term consequence of their cervical cancer treatment and 24% are living with at least six physical long term consequences. Only half of women who have experienced bowel and urinary problems have received treatment (41% and 54% respectively) and for those who have experienced negative changes in their sex life, just 10% have received treatment. Appropriate follow up pathways and referrals are desperately needed.

We ask the next Government to support NHS Trusts and Cancer Alliances to:

- Ensure all women have access to follow up pathways appropriate to their needs. This includes faster referrals for those presenting with symptoms, especially of pelvic radiation disease.
- Offer emotional and psychological support for patients, with psychosexual support available to all women who have cervical cancer.

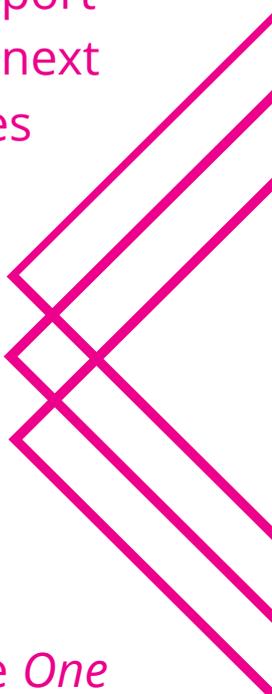
4. Commit to ensuring the cancer workforce is equipped to meet the needs of the current and future cancer population

We are currently faced with significant gaps across all parts of the cancer workforce. Radiotherapy and histopathology are just two areas where there are high levels of vacancies. and, according to Cancer Research UK, there are significant shortages in the Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) workforce across the UK. The number of people diagnosed with cancer is further set to increase and it is essential that we have a workforce that is able to cope with existing need as well as future demands and deliver high standards of care and support. We call on the next Government to urgently commit to addressing shortages in staff while providing the investment needed to facilitate this.



Show your support on social media: *I'm supporting @jostrust manifesto on #CervicalCancer and their vision of a day where no woman dies from cervical cancer #GE19*

Contact us at julia@jostrust.org.uk to tell us you support our manifesto and would like to work with us in the next parliament to help reach a day where no woman dies from cervical cancer.



Along with 28 other cancer charities we released the *One Cancer Voice: A manifesto for patients*. Find out more here: bit.ly/32DQKpB

