

## Press release

Embargoed until 00.01am Friday 19th September 2014

### **Cancer52 publishes Manifesto for the 2015 General Election**

Cancer52, an alliance of 80 charities working in the field of rare and less common cancers is today (19<sup>th</sup> September 2014) publishing its Cancer52 Manifesto.

With over 150,000 people diagnosed with a rare and less common cancer across the UK in 2011<sup>i</sup>, and with these cancers accounting for 75,000 cancer deaths in 2012, Cancer52 says that rare and less common cancers must be a priority regardless of who is in power from May 2015.

In summary Cancer52 wants:

1. A **refreshed cancer strategy** in all four countries in the UK – and for these to clearly include rare and less common cancers
2. **More research** into rare and less common cancers – including rare and less common cancers as part of the 100,000 Genomes Project
3. **Early access to modern treatments and services** – with decisions on access involving patients and not a tick box exercise

The Cancer52 Manifesto is welcomed by Professor Karol Sikora, Chief Medical Officer for Cancer Partners UK.

Says Professor Sikora, "No two people with cancer are identical. The molecular basis through which their cancer arose, the way in which the natural history of the disease evolves and their reaction to it in body, mind and spirit are all enormously variable. The future of cancer care must reflect a highly personalised approach which needs embedding within our NHS. Cancer52's campaign reflects this individualisation which needs political action to ensure future patients receive optimal, tailored and effective care. We've come a long way in cancer since the birth of the NHS but there's much more to be done. This manifesto provides an excellent strategic direction to plan for our future."

Clara Mackay, Cancer52 Chair says, "Regardless of what party is successful in the May 2015 General Elections, they must tackle the rising proportion of cancer deaths occurring in those diagnosed with rare and less common cancers. In 2006, when we were founded, 52% of all cancer deaths in England in 2006 were from rare and less common cancers. That level was up to 54% in 2011<sup>ii</sup>. So we're asking that all MPs take up our three asks to refresh cancer strategies, support more research and ensure access to modern treatments and services. This will offer hope to the hundreds of thousands of people diagnosed with a rare and less common cancer every year across the UK".

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Further information

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<sup>i</sup> Cancer Research UK, UK Cancer Incidence 2011 and mortality 2012 summary - Counts, September 2014

<sup>ii</sup> 70,647 people died of a rare or less common cancer in 2011 and 132,770 people were diagnosed in 2012 Source Cascade, National Cancer Registration Service, Public Health England, accessed 21st May 2014)