

Hello again!

Hello everyone.
In this packed Summer edition, we provide:



- An interview with MEP Lieve Wierinck about the 'Transforming Breast Cancer Together' initiative in which we are participating.
- An article about supporting working carers for those with cancer.
- Some news about our first open workshop for employers that we ran on 18th July
- A profile of Isabel van der Ven who works with us as a coach and trainer
- Information about two of the charities we are working with to support our coachees: 'Smartworks' and 'Something to Look Forward to'.

And, as I always say, if there is anything else you'd like us to cover, do please get in touch!

Admin@workingwithcancer.co.uk



Transforming Breast Cancer Together: An interview with Lieve Wierinck, MEP

Lieve Wierinck MEP is leading an exciting new initiative in which we are delighted to be participating with the aim of transforming breast cancer care in the EU.

[This interview](#) with Lieve is part of the 'String of Pearls', a series of initiatives aimed at improving services for women in Europe with breast cancer and advanced breast cancer.

The MEPS and organisations working on this issued a 'Call for Change' in May this year. You can read more about Lieve and about the initiative [here](#).



Did you know.....



About cancer :

- Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with an average of around 150 cases diagnosed every day.
- Breast cancer survivors have an increased risk of bone thinning due to the effects of hormonal therapy and going through early menopause. Physical activity such as walking, dancing and resistance training can help keep bones strong.
- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men, with 330,000 men living with prostate cancer in the UK.
- A quarter of all new cases of cancer diagnosed in men are prostate cancers, with 119 men diagnosed every day.

About work and cancer :

- An estimated 1 in 3 people living with cancer are of working age
- Cancer survivors (who were in work at the point of their cancer diagnosis) are 1.4 times more likely to be unemployed than the general population.

**All stats courtesy of Macmillan Cancer Support*

WWC Open Workshop For Employers – more to follow!

We ran a highly successful open workshop on 18th July – 'How to fully support employees affected by cancer at work'. It was attended by 11 delegates from 5 companies. And a big thank you to Schrodgers for hosting. The workshop covered areas such as handling difficult conversations sensitively, understanding how to support employees from diagnosis through to a return to work and beyond, the legal framework and workplace adjustments, as well as suggestions on developing a cancer strategy, policies and action plans. The use of case studies, a quiz and real-life examples meant the workshop was highly practical and participative, and was facilitated by two WWC associates, Maggie Newton and Isabel van der Ven.



More workshops will follow
– we'll keep you informed!



In the spotlight: Isabel van der Ven

I joined Working with Cancer in March last year. I have an engineering background and had been working in the IT industry for 20 years or so, when I was diagnosed and treated for breast cancer in 2003 in the Netherlands. I'm one of those "47% of people working when diagnosed with cancer had to give up work or change roles as a result of their diagnosis." (source: Macmillan).

Coaching helped me tremendously in my recovery; it helped me to reassess my life and to find a way forward. As a result, I trained as a coach myself and have been coaching people affected by cancer since 2008 in different settings. It's extremely rewarding to be able to support employees back into work after cancer, knowing myself how important work is; it gave me identity, purpose, structure, financial independence, recognition and social interaction. My first-hand experience is always highly appreciated by my coaching clients and in the workshops I run for WWC which makes me feel proud of the work I do.

What participants take home from our workshops:

"I realise I need to take time to think before I speak and be flexible at looking at alternative reasonable adjustments on a case to case basis."

"The workshop increased my awareness of how to support a colleague with cancer and the practical ways to support them."

Supporting Working Carers for Those with Cancer



A diagnosis of cancer has a profound impact on the person diagnosed and it also affects their family, friends and colleagues. The emotional and psychological toll on the person diagnosed is well documented but we want to draw attention to the impact of a cancer diagnosis on the person who is a carer and who is working. Mary McPhail discusses [here](#) the impact of caring and provides a few key messages.

WWC and Partners in the News



On 14 May an article about work and cancer was published in the FT to which our Founder, Barbara Wilson, contributed her thoughts. The article was headed "The measure of being normal again is my ability to do my job". That sentiment will resonate with many cancer survivors.

And we'd like to mention two organisations we partner with.

- [Smartworks](#) provide a new or 'good as new' smart outfit for those of our coachees looking for work and who have a job interview arranged. Smartworks have won numerous awards.
- Our coachees and their families can also access a variety of free treats and 'gifts' donated by companies and individuals from [Something to Look Forward To](#) who are currently in the finals of the 2018 National Lottery Awards.

 SMART WORKS

And finally....

WWC is always happy to arrange speakers for conferences and events – if you would like to book us for an event, do please contact us at admin@workingwithcancer.co.uk.

If you would like further information about our services please contact:

Admin@workingwithcancer.co.uk

Tel: 07910 835585

Or visit our website at www.workingwithcancer.co.uk/

