Press Release

Immediate Release

9 June 2026

Cancer Survivor Turns Journey into Powerful Community Action

A mental health hospital worker in Woking is turning his own cancer battle into a powerful force, using his journey to drive charitable action and shine a spotlight on men's health.

Motivated by his own experience with prostate cancer, Mike Woods, a driver at Cygnet Hospital Woking, is giving back by championing cancer awareness in his local community.

After beating prostate cancer in 2016, Mike now volunteers for two cancer charities.

"Having had prostate cancer so young when I was 52 and without any symptoms, it is important for me to share my story and raise awareness of prostate cancer. I am motivated to explain to other people the importance of cancer screening and seeing your doctor if you have any concerns," explained Mike.

"After nearly 10 years, it is easy to sometimes forget that I am a survivor and I just slip back into my-day-to-day life. But after learning a great deal in my journey about cancer, it influenced me to seek opportunities to raise awareness."

Through his volunteering, the hospital driver not only shines a spotlight on cancer but also gives back to Royal Surrey Hospital, where he underwent his treatment.

Mike volunteers for The Prostate Project, raising money for equipment for the hospital, as well as funding cancer research at the University of Surrey. As part of his charitable efforts, Mike helps run the charity's Man Van, visiting the local community and offering blood testing to detect prostate cancer.

He is also a Community Ambassador for Movember, focusing on promoting understanding of men's mental health as well as testicular and prostate cancer.

Mike's experience has influenced his work at Cygnet Hospital Woking, a mental health hospital for adults in Knaphill, run by Cygnet Health Care.

He said: "In November, our team celebrated Movember and raised awareness of men's mental health. I also publish weekly articles for our service and sometimes run a Friday session where I answer questions from colleagues on mental health, testicular and prostate cancer."

Mike shared his story as part of Cygnet Group's Cancer Awareness and Prevention Campaign and in celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day on 7 June.