

SPAGN Conference Participant Profile

Name: Andy French

Organisation: Sarcoma UK

Role / Stakeholder Type: Representing the charity

Country: UK



What is your connection to sarcoma or your sarcoma story?

I have been Policy & Public Affairs Manager at Sarcoma UK, the bone & soft tissue cancer charity, since July 2023. Many people in my family have had cancer, and though I've not been personally affected personally by sarcoma, I recognised it an issue that I wanted to work on, because it is rare and difficult to diagnose and treat, and an issue of health and social justice that people affected by sarcoma need to see addressed.

I was also really keen to work for Sarcoma UK because it is such a dynamic organisation that tries to make a positive difference everyday and works in partnership with people affected by sarcoma and healthcare professionals.

And I wanted to make myself useful, using the skills I'd developed in my career having worked in the UK Parliament for a House of Commons' Committee on environmental protection and health inequalities; at a national sight loss charity on unequal access to treatment; and as a civil servant in the UK Government on policy issues including maternity and children's, and environment and sustainable development.



What's most important to know about your organization?

Sarcoma UK, the bone & soft tissue cancer charity, operates across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Our vision: Where everyone affected by sarcoma cancer lives longer and better lives.

Our mission: We enable earlier diagnosis, advance treatments, improve care and ensure no one faces sarcoma alone by working with patients, families, researchers, healthcare professionals and policymakers.





What are you most interested in collaborating on?

Policy, Partnerships



Your role in the organisation and main areas of involvement:

As Sarcoma UK's Policy & Public Affairs Manager, I manage a small team that oversees the charity's policy evidence. Since I joined we have conducted a 'state of the nation review' of sarcoma treatment and services – the largest qualitative study of its kind ever undertaken in the UK; and the 2025 National Sarcoma Survey – the largest quantitative survey of people affected by sarcoma in the UK.

These projects have enabled the charity to update its policy priorities and refocus its work influencing government policy and the delivery of healthcare to improve outcomes for people affected by sarcoma.

Other key work includes working with healthcare professionals that oversee specialist sarcoma centres to address system-wide challenges in frontline care; developing an optimal diagnostic pathway for sarcoma in England to address delayed diagnosis; and responding to treatment appraisals for use in the UK.



How can others best connect with you after the conference?

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One fun fact about you or something you are proud of:

I live in London with my partner and teenage twin sons. I am artist in my spare time, and enjoys music, drinking coffee and cloud-watching.

