**Summary of 221+ Strategic Plan 2021-2023**

**Introduction**

*“221+ was established to bring together a community which never wanted, nor should never have needed, to exist”*

And yet 221+ does exist, to support the over 300 members, consisted of women affected by cervical cancer and their loved ones, affected by the CervicalCheck failings first brought to light by Vicky Phelan in 2018. You can read more about our story [here](https://221plus.ie/history/).

We are an organization with two main aims – we **support our members** to access vital services and support, a listening, caring network for them to engage with. We also provide everyone with information and promote cervical screening / the HPV vaccine through our website and Twitter page. Our second purpose is to raise up the voices of our members past and present, working to remember the past and **drive change** in the healthcare system to hold decision-makers to account, ensuring to the best of our ability that the women of Ireland have access to a world class screening service and health care.

**Our vision:**

*All women in Ireland have access to the best cervical cancer screening, treatment and support, which builds on the learning, experience and actions of the brave women and families of 221+.*

**Our mission:**

*We support the women and families of 221+ and provide a forum for their voices to be heard. We promote understanding of the impact of cervical cancer and its aftereffects, and work to prevent cervical cancer by promoting improvements in and awareness of screening and vaccination so that these services best serve women’s needs.* These will be achieved through enacting our values, which are *empowerment, empathy & support, member informed & inclusive, listening & respectful, partnership*.

**Member-led**

This Strategic Plan for the years **2021-2023** (timeline/schedule subject to change due to Covid-19) was co-created with our members through focus groups, surveys, workshops and interviews, to make sure it addresses their needs and concerns.

Some of the main needs & focal points this process identified were:

* The need for continued access to emotional and peer support.
* Improving equality of access outside of the Dublin area.
* Provide more information relating to relevant but often difficult to access subject matters, for example the 221+ tribunal, on clinical trials and on physical and psychological health. Main areas to improve support on: sexuality after cancer, managing incontinence, bowel health, nutrition, psychological side of infertility, returning to work after a cancer diagnosis, dealing with family conflict and support for dealing with the dying.
* The need for financial supports and referrals.
* The need for medical services and practitioners to better understand the needs of women with gynaecological cancer.

**In order to achieve this in our day to day work, we are guided by 10 Actions for 2021-23:**

**Action 1**

Provide high quality supports to women and families affected by CervicalCheck failures.

*Ensure member access to information, support and care, delivered in a way that creates trust and a feeling of care.*

**Action 2**

Grow the 221+ patient advocate panel.

*Recruit more patient representatives, ensure they are supported and strengthen connection between staff, patient representatives and members.*

**Action 3**

Provide high quality supports to women and families affected by cervical check – peer support.

*Develop peer support network within membership according to geographic regions and themes.*

**Action 4**

Collectively memorialise the traumatic experience of our members.

*Support members to create a memorial and take part in activities facilitative collective processing of trauma.*

**Action 5**

Provide high quality supports to women and families affected by the CervicalCheck failures – bereavement support.

*Make sure any member going through bereavement has access to support to process and heal.*

**Action 6**

Support specialist medical services to understand women with cervical cancer’s needs & advocate for appropriate access to treatment.

**Action 7**

To ensure members have access to information on relevant clinical trials in Ireland.

**Action 8**

Promote cancer screening and implementation of good practice in women’s gynaecological health services.

*Promote cancer screening in general population and use 221+ voice to advocate for implementing recommendations from reports connected to CervicalCheck scandal, aiming to improve women’s health services.*

**Action 9**

To monitor services for members and advocate for these to be maintained at required level.

*Make sure members receive timely, professional, appropriate services that take into account their previous traumatic experiences with the health service.*

**Action 10**

Continue to ensure good governance of 221+.

*Putting member needs at the heart of decision making and processes / safeguards in place to ensure good, transparent governance.*