



Centre for BME Health

PRESS RELEASE

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Men urged to ‘take action’ on prostate cancer after BBC man diagnosed with condition

A Leicester health campaigner has called for men to get checked out for prostate cancer because of its “silent symptoms” – after a high-profile journalist was diagnosed with the condition.

Former BBC Breakfast presenter Bill Turnbull revealed this week that he has incurable prostate cancer and says he should have taken action sooner.

The free Play Domino, Talk Prostate event takes place at Moat Community College, Maidstone Road, Leicester, from 2pm to 7pm on Saturday, March 10. It is aimed at raising awareness of prostate cancer among African Caribbean men and supporting those diagnosed with the condition.

One of the organisers is Pamela Campbell-Morris, who is a Project Assistant and Community Champion at the Centre for BME Health.

She said: “We know that Afro-Caribbean men engage very well through dominoes, it’s a cultural thing. People talk about those hard-to-reach groups, I know with Afro-Caribbean men, one way of engaging is through dominoes.”

Those at greatest risk are 45 and over and, or, with a father or brother who have had it. Pamela said: “Most men with early prostate cancer have no symptoms at all, the symptoms can be silent. Don’t wait for symptoms, please, please go and have yourself checked.”

Bill Turnbull said the prostate cancer was found in November and has now spread to his legs, hips, pelvis and ribs. The 62-year-old said he had put long-term aches and pains down to “old age”.

Speaking to the Radio Times magazine he urges others to get tested. He said: “Maybe if I’d got it earlier and stopped it at the prostate, I’d be in a much better state.”

Specialist speakers will be on hand to provide information at the event and answer any questions about the condition, named as the UK's third biggest cancer killer last month.

A free hot Caribbean lunch will be provided for all attendees.

The information session has been organised by the Centre for BME Health, Prostaide and Prostate Cancer UK. It is supported by the National Institute for Health Research's Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) East Midlands.

Pamela added: "The event provides an informal opportunity for both men and women to seek advice and answer any questions they have about the prostate."

Latest figures from Prostate Cancer UK revealed there were 11,819 deaths from prostate cancer in 2015 compared with 11,442 from breast cancer. This is the first time in the UK data has revealed male deaths from the disease have overtaken female deaths from breast cancer.

The Centre for BME Health is working to reduce health inequality in the region by sharing resources and promoting research.

NIHR CLAHRC East Midlands is a partnership of regional health services, universities and industry which turns research into cost-saving and high-quality care through cutting-edge innovation.