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**2016** saw a new logo for Cancer Support France unveiled with a new website and Cancer Support France attended the World Cancer Congress in Paris and made a short presentation.

The first Trainers' Conference is held at the Oncopole, Toulouse in **2016**.

**2017** - Sadly, Linda dies in March. Her legacy, of a thriving Cancer Support France, remains.

By **2019** CSF (National) has 13 affiliated Associations, covering much of France

From **2020 – 2022** during the Covid lockdown period, CSF expands its service to support all Anglophones isolated and lonely, in France.

From **2021 – 2022** Cancer Support France provides a signposting service for those affected by BREXIT. The training programme for Active Listeners is revised in 2022 to reflect the changing needs of clients.

**2023** - A new logo is designed, defining Cancer Support France

Since **2002**, and continuing to today, much of Linda's legacy continues. The increase in use of modern technology means that support can now be provided by, for example, Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp and text messages, as well as by the original telephone and email. Many affiliates organise support groups to enable face-to-face contact where members can share in a safe space.

**Helpline 0800 240 200**



## **A History of Cancer Support France**

**We are an association set up under 1901 French rules which supports English speakers affected by cancer whatever their country of origin. We support the person with the illness, carers, family members and friends.**

**This association was founded at the end of 2011 and since then we have supported over 150 people. We support clients in a variety of ways, some of them are just seeking information, some need a translator and some need longer term support from one of our well trained Active Listeners.**

**The association was originally set up as part of a national scheme started at the beginning of this century .**

**All of us are volunteers and give our time freely.**

**So here is a short history of Cancer Support France and Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne**

**Cancer Support France Haute Vienne (RNA No.: W873000485)  
Siège: 87360, Azat-le-Ris. [www.cshautevienne.org](http://www.cshautevienne.org)**

**Cancer Support France** began life in **2000** around a kitchen table in the Poitou-Charente. Its founder, **Linda Shepherd**, was struggling to come to terms with her radiotherapy treatment. A fluent French speaker, Linda found she could not express her deepest fears in a foreign language. She discovered other English-speakers with similar problems and started a regular coffee meeting in her home. She became aware that it was not only the patient who was being affected by the illness and its treatment; partners, family members and friends were struggling too, and were invited to join. With the support of her oncologist, Linda advertised the group to offer support more widely.

In **2002** Cancer Support in the Poitou Charente is registered as a French 'Loi 1901' not-for-profit association. In the same year Linda recognises the need for her members to be trained in the art of active listening. Macmillan in UK help her to establish proper training for those members intending to have client contact (Active Listeners).

Then in **2005** Cancer Support Deux-Sèvres is created, the first independent Association.

In **2006** to reflect that support is being given by telephone all over France, the name of the original Association is changed to 'Cancer Support France – Charente Plus'

From **2007 - 2010** new Associations are registered across France - three in the Dordogne area and one in Normandy, Gascony and Brittany, followed by Sud de France and Languedoc

In **2010** Cancer Support France (National) was created. Charente Plus remains the local Association. The National 'office' comprises a President (Linda being the first), a Treasurer and Secretary. These three, together with 7 representatives elected from local Associations, make up the National Committee

**2010** - The training package for Active Listeners, which was still based on Macmillan's original guidance, is developed to suit Cancer Support France's specific needs.

In **2011 Cancer Support France Haute-Vienne** was founded by Richard and Sue Ware and Karen Blewett. Before that the Haute-Vienne was covered by CSF Charente Plus and the separation was encouraged by the then President of Charente Plus. During our first year, the association in Creuse had problems and we agreed to take it over. We then found ourselves with clients from Corrèze and Indre, being the nearest association to these departments. So we now cover **87 (Haute-Vienne), 23 (Creuse), 19 (Corrèze) and 36 (Indre)**.

A partnership agreement is signed, in **2014**, with La Ligue contre le cancer but now is no longer in force as associations have opted to form links locally. At the AGM in March 7 2014, Linda retires and re-organisation of Cancer Support France begins

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