

Mac News

The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views and announcements

Matrons Musings: Amanda Bessant

Recent times have proved to be difficult in terms of fund raising & we can see first-hand the fabulous benefits the Macmillan health care professionals, as well as the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre can bring to cancer patients and their families .

Last year, 2 of our family members completed the Macmillan Mighty Hike in the lake District, other than sore feet & stiff legs they both said it was a fantastic experience & one they would be willing to repeat.....if my husband & I joined them.....the only possible answer we could give was....'we better all register then'!



On June 18th we will be meeting up with family, who live 200 miles away, so there will be plenty of opportunity during the 26.5 mile (42.195 km) hike for catching up.....what better way to raise money for Macmillan than to spend the day with family

For the full story & if you would like to sponsor please go to : www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Amanda20

Donations



Masons of Weston-super-Mare presenting a cheque Macmillan Cancer Support Workers Lesley Bowskill and Jude Opogah

Just before Christmas Ruth Hendy Lead Cancer Nurse received 10 of these lovely Ted Baker bags (containing a selection of toiletries etc). Macmillan Cancer Support (in collaboration Boots) donated the bags for Macmillan staff by way of a small 'thank you' from Macmillan. The lucky 10 names were drawn out of a hat.



Sue one of the Weston Macmillan Cancer Support workers receiving her bag from Ruth

How the Macmillan Cancer Support Partnership Team supported the development of the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre

The Macmillan Cancer Support (MCS) Partnership teamwork with our partners and professionals to help improve services to meet the needs of people affected by cancer. Below is an example of how we supported the development of the Macmillan Cancer Support Centre (MCSC) here at Weston. It took many years with collaborative working between the Trust and MCS.

- 2006 business case from the Trust submitted to the [MCS Partnership Manager](#) for a Macmillan Centre Manager. The case was successful and a post holder appointed
- 2014 MCSC undertook the quality improvement [Macmillan Quality Environment Mark \(MQEM\)](#) assessment and the quality improvement assessment [Macmillan Quality in Information and Support Service \(MQuiSS\)](#). The facilities were identified as not fit for purpose and not compliant. This provided evidence for the Trust and MCS.
- Evidence of non-compliance with the nationally recognised quality standards ie CQC formed the basis for a Trust business case to improve the MCSC service
- Trust approved and identified space to relocate the MCSC
- Business case which included evidence from service users was submitted by the Trust to the [MCS Partnership Manager](#) for funding for a new Centre who then worked with the Trust, [MCS Environments and Quality Team](#) to develop plans
- Funding approved from MCS and Trust Charitable funds
- The new build began and opened 16th October 2017
- Trust Steering Group was set up to oversee the development of the new service in line with the [Quality Environment, Information and Support and Volunteering Standards](#). Key stakeholders were the Trust Lead Cancer Nurse, Volunteer Manager, MCISS Manager, [MCS Quality Lead](#), [Volunteer Manager](#), [Communications and Engagement Lead](#).
- [MQEM \(2018 and 2021\)](#) and [MQuiSS 2018](#) were achieved
- Ongoing support from the [Macmillan Partnership Quality Lead](#) inc in 2018 a joint formal service review with the [Macmillan Engagement Lead](#) to support wider engagement of the service within the community



Sarah Mathewson
Macmillan
Partnership manager



Sue Littler
Partnership Quality
Lead

For the next few articles we will expand on each MCS role and process (in green 😊) and what we do and how we can work together.

Team Changes



Ceri has moved from Acute Oncology to join the Colorectal cancer nurse specialist team



Denise has moved from Lung cancer to join the Acute Oncology Service along with Madeline who is seconded from the Oncology Day Unit



We Welcome

Gemma the new lead for Personalised care and Support and Nicola, the new haematology cancer support worker



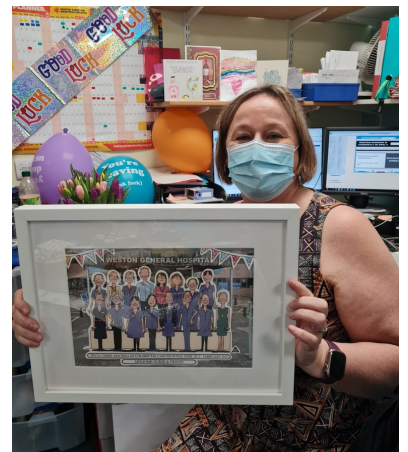
Cath Cancer Nurse Specialist along with Claire Cancer support worker have both moved from the Lung service to work along side Tracy supporting Upper GI cancer patients. Claire will still support Lung patients



Goodbye and happy retirement

At the end of January Tricia Simms (O'Sullivan) Colorectal CNS decided, after nearly 40 yrs in nursing, to retire . She started nursing in 1984 and has spent the last 10 years working here at Weston General Hospital

Tricia's not leaving Macmillan behind though as she is going to be working on their support line as a nurse advisor ! So who knows you may still end up speaking to her.



Last word: Emma Pugh Macmillan Centre Manager

Contact the Macmillan Support centre on :
01934 881079
Ex 5079 or email :
WGHMacmillansupport
centre@UHBW.nhs.uk



'I have been associated on and off with the NHS since 1988 when I started my training as a children's nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Once qualified I move to Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton initially as a children's nurse but eventually I ended up working with the cancer services team ensuring that the cancer performance targets were met.

In 2015 I came to Weston as the Cancer manager which led to this role a Macmillan Centre manager in 2017

So what does a Macmillan Centre Manager do I hear you cry?

Firstly, I work with a fantastic team of people who all put the patient, their friends and family first.

Secondly, I have the ability to emotionally support centre visitors when they are struggling with a cancer diagnosis.

Finally, I have had the privilege to help create a safe, welcoming space for anyone affected by cancer, to use at one of the hardest times in their lives.

When I first started, the Macmillan Centre was housed in a small office, still located on the first floor but down the end of the corridor from the present Macmillan Centre. I was fortunate to be part of the team who shared a vision of how we would like the Macmillan Centre to be & we worked together to create the oasis, the Macmillan Centre you see today.

Throughout my time in post, I have had the pleasure of gaining accreditation for both of the Macmillan quality awards, MQUSIS (2019) and MQEM (2018 & 2021), which ensures the environment and information of the Macmillan Centre are of the highest standard.

In addition, I have worked with the team of Macmillan Cancer Support Workers to create an online A-Z of information, this enables the Macmillan Cancer Nurses and Macmillan Cancer Support Workers to access up to date information wherever they are working in the trust.

I have recently completed a counselling skills course, which along with my advanced communication training, I know will help provide not only improved support for the centre visitors but also staff who call in for wellbeing support.

As for my own wellbeing, look out for me walking my dog or maybe you'll see me performing in North Somerset with Rock Choir.

All I can say is that being the Macmillan Centre Manager is the best job in the world. I have learnt so much about myself as well as how resilient human beings are in the face of adversity.

So if you need a chat please pop in and say hello, you will always be made very welcome.

Edited by Emma Pugh
Macmillan Centre
Manager

For further information
or future contributions
— please email:
emma.pugh@uhbw.nhs.uk

For information, support or just someone to talk to, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk