

Mac News

The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views and announcements

Macmillan Partnership update

by Suzie Moon, Partnership Quality lead



Suzie Moon

In June Macmillan launched an open strategy process where we are asking all stakeholders to get involved and tell us what they think of Macmillan.

Initially Macmillan will be emailing to all Macmillan Professionals asking their thoughts and opinions to give them an opportunity to make their voices heard and feed directly into Macmillan's future.

Some of the questions asked will be:

- What concerns you most about cancer now?
- What makes you feel hopeful for people with cancer?
- If you had your wish, what are the top 2 or 3 things you would like Macmillan to focus on?

Engaging with people outside of Macmillan and particularly, those with lived experience is very important to us throughout this process. This means that shortly there will be a survey for those with lived experience and their families, this will be accessed via the Macmillan website.

Our plan for this year focuses on the areas where we can make the biggest difference to the 3 million people living with cancer in the UK today. Our 2023 priorities to improve our services and support are detailed below:

- Help more people with the cost of living crisis. By investing more money into grants and welfare advice so people get the financial help they desperately need. We'll also work with partners in energy and banking across the UK to drive industry-wide change.
- Make our services more inclusive. By increasing our cancer champions in local communities, volunteers offering tailored help and guidance to people furthest from accessing cancer support and information. We will also form a national partnerships to offer grants to grassroots organisations working with under-represented communities.
- Work closely with our 11,000 Macmillan professionals. By supporting their development and making sure they have the right tools, skills, support and resources to deliver excellent personalised care experiences for people living with cancer.
- Transform our cancer information services. By increasing their reach and improving the experience for people with cancer accessing these services.
- Work with partners to deliver joined up health and care services. By improving the Cancer Journey is a successful service in Scotland that gives people diagnosed with cancer access to a dedicated support worker who can connect them to emotional, practical and financial support that's right for them. This year we will pilot the model in England.

Senior Sisters Update From the OHDU

As we enter into the long awaited summer, signs of COVID are diminishing and things are looking brighter.

On the oncology and haematology day unit COVID restrictions are lifting, receptionists and nurses not involved in direct patient care are no longer required to wear face masks. Please be reassured that we will still be following strict infection control procedures to keep our lovely patients safe.



Alison Hatton

We are finally able to unveil the beautiful artwork that we have had installed in the OHDU procedure room. This has been funded by the Bristol & Weston hospital charities using monies kindly donated to the oncology & haematology day unit.

The artwork was designed to reflect all things local and close to the heart of local people and will provide a welcoming and interesting focal point for patients using this room.



We have a new information point in the waiting room, a screen which runs through slides of important information for the patients.

Topics include: Pre-treatment blood tests, Acute oncology service, Infection, Neutropenic sepsis card, Vaccinations, COVID, Chemotherapy pre assessment, Macmillan cancer support centre, Why am I waiting? and Kidney health

Matrons Musings : Amanda Bessant



We have a number of Macmillan cancer nurses & Macmillan cancer support worker teams based at Weston General Hospital, across a variety of cancer sites with each team required to understand the challenges within their service & analyse how, through collaborative working & innovation, improvements can be made. One of our cancer teams at Weston General Hospital is the Acute Oncology Service (AOS), this team provide support & advice to cancer patients who are unwell with complications of their cancer, side effects of their cancer treatment or awaiting a new cancer diagnosis.

AOS support all inpatient wards, the emergency department, as well as cancer patients in the community, working closely with other health care providers to streamline unplanned cancer related admissions to Weston General Hospital. AOS has been established at Weston General Hospital since 2013 & now comprises of three Macmillan clinical nurse specialists & one Macmillan cancer support worker. However, in the past year, we have had two new clinical nurse specialists & one new cancer support worker, which is a considerable amount of change for such a small team.

There has been a collective agreement this is the ideal time to review the service, & with the support of both Macmillan & Bristol Haematology & Oncology Hospital, we plan to develop robust structures to enable the delivery of a sustainable Acute Oncology Service at Weston General Hospital.

The AOS team have all embraced the opportunity for learning & service development & have recently undertaken a successful Macmillan service review & at the end of this month, a UHBW annual performance review.

AOS are working to align their AOS/Cancer of Unknown Primary/Cancer Outreach Clinical Nurse Specialist service with the Bristol teams & are working collaboratively to enable this transition.

With an innovative & collaboration approach the Acute Oncology Service & the Same Day Emergency Care team have significantly improved patient safety & patient experience in terms of the neutropenic sepsis pathway.

There are a number of future audits ideas, joint teaching sessions with the simulation team & the Emergency Department Practice Education Facilitators, in the pipeline, so all in all, the new AOS sheer determination, positivity & 'can do' approach is admirable & one that is worthy of recognition

Haematology Team win an award

The Haematology team at Weston General Hospital were delighted to achieve accreditation under the Myeloma UK Clinical Service Excellence Programme. This award recognises the quality of the care and support offered to myeloma patients and their families, and is not given lightly. This is a huge achievement for the team, and whilst this refers specifically to our Myeloma care, our aim is always to provide the same level of service to all of our patients.



Congratulations Haem Team



PCS Team Update



In May, our Macmillan cancer support workers at Weston had their first face to face patient health & wellbeing event since before covid. This event is called 'First Steps' and is for patients newly diagnosed with cancer.

Led by our cancer support workers, the First Steps sessions focus on providing information and advice on promoting health and wellbeing throughout treatment. The sessions cover topics such as, information & support, acute oncology, eating well, managing fatigue and emotional wellbeing.



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

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



It was great to see patients interacting together and engaging in the support offered, all with the focus of self-empowerment to manage their own wellbeing. We asked patients what they felt was most useful and they said..

- Just reassurance and finding there is a lot of support
- All the information I found useful
- Meeting the Macmillan people involved & what they do.
- Range of support available.

Edited by Emma Pugh
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For further information or
future contributions
please email:
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If you are interested in referring one of your patients for this event, please speak to your cancer support worker.

