

Mac News

The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views and announcements

Senior Sisters update From OHDU by Alison Hatton

We are very pleased that patients with lung malignancies are now able to have their treatment at Weston instead of having to travel to Bristol. This will reduce the amount of time, stress and cost travelling to Bristol for their appointments with their consultant and for their chemotherapy.

As winter approaches we are actively encouraging patients and staff to have both the COVID and Flu vaccinations. All the staff on OHDU have received their booster for COVID and their annual Flu vaccination.

Advice that we give to patients having chemotherapy:

It is really important to try our best to keep well especially when you are having chemotherapy. If you do feel unwell or develop any symptoms it's vitally important that you ring the acute oncology service (AOS) for advice as soon as symptoms develop. Please don't turn up to your planned appointment unwell as this puts yourself and other patients at risk.

On a lighter note, we are working with Bristol to try and strengthen and improve our services here. Over the next few months you may see your nurses with clipboards and doing lots of writing. They are trying to capture data around the amount and type of work that they currently do so that we can work more efficiently and plan ahead as we grow.



New Monthly Haematology Support Group

We support our patient to best of our abilities but sometimes the best support and reassurance can come from people who have walked in their shoes. We aim to bring patients together and enable them to support each other in a way nobody else can.

Our monthly haematology support group meetings are a safe place where people can share experiences, meet people in similar circumstances and offer each other support, encouragement and comfort. We meet last Friday of the month 2pm- 3pm at Weston Hospicecare.



Donations to the Macmillan Support Centre



Daydreamers and Destroyers summer skittles teams at the Century Club took part in a charity skittles match and raffle in memory of Howard who had been supported by the Macmillan Centre. Fun was had by everyone and the Daydreamers won. They raised £700 for the centre.

The ED department played rounders against the paramedics and raised an £100 for the Macmillan centre



Macmillan Conference 2023 - Part 1

Matrons Musings : Amanda Bessant

The Macmillan Professionals Conference is an annual event that provides a great opportunity to bring communities of Macmillan professionals together for networking to share experiences, learning & best practices with our Macmillan professional partners from across the country. The conference also helps to ensure Macmillan professions stay up to date with what is happening within cancer nationally as well as locally.

Hilary, our Macmillan Lead Haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist & I, had the good fortune to visit Glasgow to attend the 2023 Macmillan Conference in November.

There were a number of other UHBW Macmillan professionals from a range of specialties who also attended to ensure our wider cancer team was well represented.

This is the third conference I have been lucky enough to attend, and I wasn't disappointed, my experience has always been the same, you come away feeling valued & re-energised.

We listened to Macmillan's vision for the future and the role we as Macmillan professionals, play in helping Macmillan to do whatever it takes to support people living with and affected by cancer. There were truly inspiring keynote speakers in the main auditorium & in the exhibition hall there was a large display of posters with latest innovations & service development for viewing.

During the day we attended a variety of workshops and gained practical skills and tools to support us in our roles. On the second evening we attended the Macmillan Professions Excellence Awards ceremony where outstanding Macmillan professionals are recognised for the contribution to cancer services. This was a very glamorous event & all of the shortlisted nominees were celebrated.

The 500 delegates are made to feel genuinely respected and connected to the charity & it really is a fantastic way to bring professionals from across the UK together, it is safe to say we felt valued & appreciated & left the conference feeling energised & inspired & proud to be a Macmillan professional.





Macmillan Conference 2023- Part 2 from : Suzie Moon Partnership Quality Lead

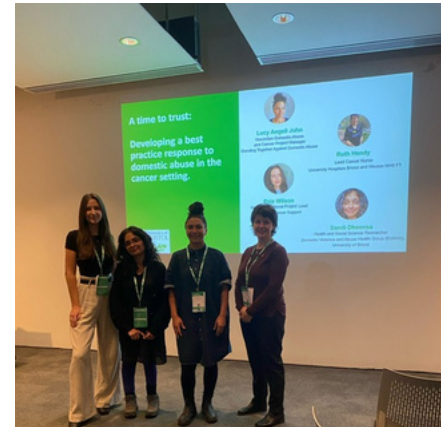
This year I attended the Macmillan Professionals Conference and Professionals Excellence Awards ceremony. The Conference and Award Ceremony are the highlight of the Macmillan Calendar year, celebrating all the great work that is being undertaken across the UK. This year there was really great attendance from the South West with UHBW being particularly well represented. Zoe Walker who is a Therapeutic Radiographer based at UHBW working as part of a SWAG wide Late Effects Radiotherapy Service was nominated for an Excellence Award, and along with her colleagues were winners, a fantastic plaque will soon be given to Zoe to display within the Radiotherapy Service.



Zoe
Late effects Radiotherapy
Service



Anna OT Macmillan Therapy Team
Ellie ,Lead PCS team.
Rachael NET CNS
Ruth Lead Cancer Nurse



Macmillan Cancer & Domestic
Abuse project team

If you are interested in being a part of the 2024 Macmillan Professionals Conference which will be held in Cardiff you can do this in three ways:

1. Be nominated or nominate yourself for an Excellence Award.
2. Submit a Poster about an element of your work
3. Apply to be a delegate

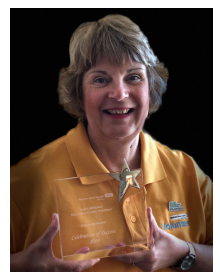
The first way to attend, be nominated for an award is time consuming, as you must complete a nomination form, if shortlisted you then have to submit a presentation to a panel of Judges, if you are chosen to be a finalist for an award you are invited to the whole event as a priority. Nominations for an Excellence Award open in May of 2024. There are usually four categories.

The second way to attend, submit a Poster – Submissions for the poster open around May 2024. Poster topics are initially submitted then you will be asked to produce a poster. You may be asked to talk about or explain the poster in one of the break out sessions, this would be agreed in advance. You are invited to the full conference and also the Awards ceremony.

The third way is to apply for a place in September when applications to attend the event are opened to all Macmillan Professionals to apply for a place. Notification that you can apply for a place come via Mac Mail so please do make sure that you let me know if you are not receiving this.

Goodbye & thank you to Helen Whitaker Centre Volunteer

In November we said a sad goodbye and thank you to Helen who had been our volunteer since the centre opened in its current home in October 2017. Helen was a great help making up the new patient packs, chatting to patients who came into the centre for support and generally supporting the team in anyway she could. During her time with us Helen won the trust volunteer award which she really deserved. We wish her well in her new role at Weston Hospice.



PCS Team Update



The focus since our last Mac news has been all about collaboration. As a team, we often try to learn as much as we can from other services outside of our NHS trust. That way, we can ensure we're always providing a high quality service to our patients and the people who support them.

Earlier in the month, we visited 'Force Cancer Centre' this is based in Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital grounds. and similarly, to our beautiful Macmillan centre in Weston, they provide cancer information & support. We had a tour around their building, learnt more about what they can offer to patients and came away inspired with lots of brilliant ideas.



Later in the month, the team met with the new UHBW Neuroendocrine cancer specialist nurse, Rachael Delderfield. Rachael provided an education session for our team, where we learnt more about this cancer type, as well as the key areas we can offer support to the patients. Rachael shared some of the support the charity 'Neuroendocrine Cancer UK' can offer, including a NET natter, and a soon to be patient wellbeing day.

It has been great to work with other teams, to improve the services we offer. Whilst I try to avoid being cheesy, teamwork makes the dream work!

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**

Coffee Morning at The Hawthorns Clevedon

Edited by Emma Pugh
Macmillan Centre Manager

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



The Hawthorns, Clevedon held their annual Macmillan coffee morning on 24/11/2023.

They invited Amanda Bessant Macmillan Cancer matron and Emma Pugh Macmillan Centre manager along to join the residents. They raised over £300.

