

Mac News

The latest Weston General Hospital cancer news, views and announcements

Macmillan Partnership update

by Suzie Moon, Partnership Quality lead



Suzie Moon

Professional development to help in supporting people living with cancer

In the last six months, Macmillan launched a new training platform for all Healthcare Professionals, The Learning Hub can be accessed by any healthcare professional not just Macmillan Professionals, it is free training for all, the topics ranging from personalised care and support planning, communication skills, leadership and professional development to palliative and end of life care.

Macmillan relaunched our Education Grants for Macmillan Professionals with over 54 Macmillan Professionals from the South West making applications for funding. The Education Grants are designed to support a Macmillan Professional to continue to develop their knowledge and development within their role and have been used to fund attendance at Conferences, Post Graduate and Master's Degree modules and 1 to 1 Coaching. There are also Group Education grants which can be used to provide learning for a team of cancer care professionals and can be used for quality improvement initiative as well as a group learning experience.

Last year Macmillan recognised how difficult it is right now for Professionals and that to provide the support that is required to their patients their wellbeing is of vital importance. With this in mind Macmillan have created a Wellbeing grant for the use by professionals to pay for wellbeing activity such as: team building, recognition gifts or a personal wellbeing activity to help boost the professionals on personal resilience. Thanks to the availability of the wellbeing grants, the South West Cancer Centre Managers had a very successful away day in Bristol last year. This included a session on reflexology and Indian head massage as well as an opportunity to support each and share best practice ideas.

In 2023 we will be supporting even more Professionals to increase their professional development to help in supporting people living with cancer. If you wish to sign up for the Learning Hub please use the link below:

https://macmillanuk.b2clogin.com/MacmillanUK.onmicrosoft.com/B2C_1A_signup_signin_saml/samlp/so/login

Matrons Musings : Amanda Bessant



As a cancer team, of dieticians, physios, clinical psychologists, occupational therapists, cancer nurses, cancer support workers, citizens advice bureau service & the Macmillan centre we are here to help & support people living with cancer at every stage of their cancer experience.

Collaboratively, the teams provide emotional, practical, physical & financial support for both patients & their families/carers with the aim of patients treated for cancer to have a positive experience of care in hospital.

In order for us to have a greater understanding, from a patient's perspective of their cancer experience at individual hospitals, a number of surveys are undertaken in order to gather patient feedback.

One of surveys, where data is obtained on a wider scale, is the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey (NCPES). This takes place annually & aims to gather information on what is working well & also to identify areas for improvement. All adult patients with a cancer diagnosis, who attended the hospital, for a cancer related visit, as an inpatient or day case, during a designated 3 month sample period, are invited to take part. The NCPES is managed by NHS England & the 2021 report was the first, joint, Bristol & Weston UHBW survey, published in July 2022.

In total, 585 UHBW patients responded to the survey (a response rate of 54%). The results overall were positive, with patients scoring UHBW 9/10 for the 'overall experience of care' question.

Areas which also scored highly were:

Staff provided the patient with relevant information on available support
Hospital staff always did everything they could to help the patient control pain
Patient felt the length of waiting time at clinic and day unit for cancer treatment was about right
Patient was always offered practical advice on dealing with any immediate side effects from treatment

We are now meeting with individual cancer nursing teams to review areas of good practice to enable shared learning with other cancer teams & also discuss & identify areas for improvement.

Donation from local walking netball team

In the last 12 months two members of the Trailblazers walking netball team have both been affected by cancer and have been support by Macmillan Support Centre and the Cancer Nurse specialists at Weston General Hospital. So last year the Trailblazers decided to hold a tournament inviting 18 teams from the surrounding area including teams from Bristol Swindon and Newport to raise money. There was an entry fee and the Trailblazers also donated gifts for a raffle. The tournament was very successful and a team who were unable to attend due to the snow had a whip round and donated that plus their entry fee. The trailblazers topped it and raised a grand total of £500 which was split between the Macmillan Support centre and the Cancer nurses here at Weston General hospital.



Emma Pugh and Lesley Bowskill receiving the cheques from some of the Trailblazers walking netball team.



PCS Team Update



Weston Team



Bristol Team

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

NHS
University Hospitals
Bristol and Weston
NHS Foundation Trust

First Steps
Information and Support for patients with a
new cancer diagnosis

**NO ONE
SHOULD FACE
CANCER
ALONE**

We are
supportive
respectful
innovative
collaborative.
We are UHBM.

Member and rated
Good
Care Quality
Commission

As the lighter evenings begin to approach, our service starts to review all things PCS as we move forwards in the 'post' pandemic world. Starting with... our health & wellbeing events. Our cancer support worker teams in Bristol & Weston are coming together in March to re-record our virtual health & wellbeing event offering, ensuring all information is up to date and accessible for all of our patients. These sessions are co-produced with all members of the multidisciplinary team to ensure that the information is accurate & targeted for our patient group. This includes input from physiotherapy, dietetics & psychology.

In April, we aim to bring back our first face to face health & wellbeing events for those newly diagnosed with cancer. We are looking at the way in which people affected by cancer access support and information whether in person and virtually, and then using this insight to shape our service provision moving forward - please do share any thoughts you have!

I look forward to updating you all on our further PCS developments in the next edition of Mac News!

Senior Sisters Update From the OHDU



This month the day unit received a truly beautiful gift from one of our talented patients and we are proud to introduce "Hope" our unicorn. She is hand carved and painted by Terry White who is one of the only traditional carousel makers in the country. She magically appeared on the unit a few weeks ago after Terry finally completed this work of art for us while undergoing a course of treatment here.



Alison Hatton

In the past we have had a few patients who when finishing treatment wanted to know if we have a bell to ring to celebrate this occasion? I have always felt a bit reluctant to implement this practice as I would often think there would always be a few patients who would never experience this. We can now proudly say please pat "Hope" when you leave, as this is a much more positive way to celebrate.

Thanks to many generous donations to the Bristol & Weston hospitals charity (in lieu of the Oncology and haematology day unit) we are excited to be ordering an additional scalp cooler which is very much needed. We have many patients who use this facility, some with a great deal of success. Its always tricky fitting in appointments when the scalp cooler is required. This will enable us to double the amount of patients who can scalp cool in one session

Support from the Macmillan Centre : Information on travel to our hospitals

Did you know?



That as a cancer patient if you come to the hospital more than 3 times a month for more than 3 months you are entitled to free care parking- call in to the Macmillan Centre to get your ticket .

Judy our lovely Macmillan CAB caseworker is always available to help with Blue badge forms –unfortunately you don't get one just because you have cancer . Ask your cancer support worker if you require more information.

Judy can also help with benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP), which is not means tested and has a mobility element so might be able to help with patients who struggle with mobility .



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

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

Community Transport Services

Community transport services often charge a fee some of them are set and some of them require a donation . The drivers are often volunteers . Please see a selection below

North Somerset



Somerset



Edited by Emma Pugh
Macmillan Centre Manager

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

Clevedon Care: Tel 01275 343677

Portishead Porters booked Via GP

01278727444