

Melanie Thomas



Melanie has demonstrated an unstinting enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring the Lymphoedema services in Wales have been developed and sustained during the last 10 years. She has been undaunted by the challenges required for delivering a high quality services through patient centered approach with a particular focus on quality of life. She has recognised gaps in service and strived to ensure the appropriate people who could be deliver change have been made aware of these and what is required to address these gaps. She is now held in extremely high regard by all in her field in Wales and has been instrumental in ensuring lymphoedema services have been developed addressing the needs of the people of Wales.

Key Achievements

- In 2002 she developed a tool for assessing the needs of the local population to establish the service at that time and to forecast the needs of the service. She has since strived to ensure the service is implemented throughout Wales
- Authored the Wales Lymphoedema Strategy in 2010
- Secured £1million recurring funding for Lymphoedema services in Wales.
- Appointed as the All Wales Lymphoedema Lead for the Welsh Assembly Government
- Successfully secured funding for the Macmillan Lymphoedema Education scheme in ABMU, which delivers education for health care professionals and people affected by this condition.

Melanie has authored the All Wales Lymphoedema Strategy on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government and has been instrumental since its publication in ensuring this strategy is implemented.

Melanie is an active member of the Welsh Assembly Government Advisory Committee meetings to ensure the impact of Lymphoedema has been high on the political agenda. She has been appointed as the All Wales Strategic lead for Lymphoedema and together with the Executive Lead has responsibility for ensuring the Lymphoedema strategy is implemented.

Due to Melanie's' unstinting enthusiasm and commitment, she has been successful in evaluating the Lymphoedema service, identifying gaps in service and by her relentless campaigning has secured £1million recurring for the Lymphoedema services in Wales.

Lessons learned

Commitment , patience , time and a belief is required to change services over a long period. Also evidence, via evaluation is essential to securing change (and resources.)

If you have any questions about Melanie's case study please email Macmillan development manager Kim Morris KMorris@macmillan.org.uk.