

July News

Need financial support to gain a new qualification or skills?

Macmillan learning and development grants are here to help you improve your professional knowledge and skills. Since the start of the year, over 190 Macmillan professionals received a grant to use for different kinds of learning, from attending an advanced pain and symptom management course to hosting a learning day on the impact of cancer on a children's and young people's education.

You can apply for two individual grants up to a total of £1,000 per year. There is also a group grant of up to £5,000 for bespoke learning for a whole team, which can comprise Macmillan and non-Macmillan professionals.

Your [local learning and development team](#) can provide tailored advice on how to best spend your grant. So if you haven't made your application yet, [apply today](#).

Let's encourage people to get active



Our new *Get Active, Feel Good* DVD, by fitness and cancer expert Dr Anna Campbell, demonstrates a low level exercise routine set to music which is designed specifically for people living with or after cancer. The DVD is available free in Boots stores and from be.macmillan.org.uk

[Order the DVD for the people you support](#) and download these [useful tools](#) designed to help you communicate the benefits of physical activity to people living with and beyond cancer.

Coinciding with the launch of the DVD, Boots UK are featuring a campaign in-store, encouraging people affected by cancer to become more physically active. [Boots Macmillan Information Pharmacists](#) have had additional training to help them talk to customers about the benefits of physical activity and cancer, and will be signposting customers to additional resources to help them become active.

An important survey coming your way

In August, we'll be asking you and your non-Macmillan colleagues to complete a survey about Macmillan information and support services for people affected by cancer. The findings of the survey will help us better communicate about these services with a wider group of health and social care professionals. We're very keen to hear your thoughts, so please look out for the survey in the August issue of this e-bulletin.

July Learning and development

How Learn Zone can support your professional development



The [professionals section of Learn Zone](#) has been revamped so it supports you better in your professional development. The site now features a section about our learning and development events for Macmillan professionals, a wide range of e-learning programmes, a comprehensive database of cancer and palliative care courses and much more.

The revised [Role development road map](#), signposting you to resources to support specific competency and skill areas, is a useful way to discover what Learn Zone has to offer.

Apply for a part-time Lung Cancer Nursing PhD Studentship

This part-time five year long PhD studentship based at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) is designed to inform lung cancer nursing practice. Funded by the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses (NLCFN) and SHU, the studentship will cover the fees and £1,100 per year for research and travel costs.

[Apply if you are a nurse working at least 50% of your time with lung cancer patients.](#)

Testing innovative learning approaches in Central South West England

Macmillan is working with Thames Valley Health Education and Innovation Cluster (TVHIEC) to test new professional learning approaches with local universities and colleges in the South Central area. The new creative approaches will improve the quality and value for money of Macmillan's continuous professional development offer. Our cooperation with Thames Valley HIEC, which supports cross-sector working and promotes innovation and education, also enables us to foster valuable new partnerships.

We hope a wide range of new learning approaches will be made available to Macmillan professionals across the UK after the successful completion of the test.

[Email us to find out more.](#)

Ensuring cancer is high on the agenda of CCGs in England

All new Macmillan GPs in England are being encouraged to attend a three day programme designed to develop their negotiating, influencing and presentation skills.

The role of Macmillan GPs is crucial to Macmillan achieving our strategy to ensure that Clinical Commissioning Groups have cancer high on their agenda. Following a detailed learning needs analysis, the Macmillan team in the East Midlands and Northern England Region have developed a bespoke programme to develop the skills identified by Macmillan GPs as key to enabling success in their challenging role.

[Sign up or find out more.](#)

Piloting workshop training on foundation level psychological support

We're sponsoring facilitator training for the Sage & Thyme workshop, which teaches the skills required for foundation level psychological support for concerned and distressed patients.

This three hour workshop, accommodating 30 people, teaches a process of how to listen and respond to patients in a way that empowers them. There are 92 workshops scheduled across London, Anglia and the South East England this year, and many more in the rest of the UK. We hope that this training model will contribute to improving patient experience and assist professionals to help people self-manage.

Thank you to all the partners who are helping Macmillan to make this pilot successful, with nearly all delegates to date saying they would recommend the workshop to a colleague. The majority of delegates said the workshop would influence their practice as it provided clear direction and balanced support and empowerment, which made them feel more confident in talking to distressed patients and relatives. Delegates said they would be more likely to listen to patients rather than just offer solutions as a result of the workshop.

[Find out more.](#)

Developing advanced communications skills in Northern Ireland

In partnership with the Northern Ireland Cancer Network (NICaN), Macmillan has been delivering Advance Communication Skills Training for a range of senior clinicians and nurses. Training for trainers is embedded in the course - this ensures there is future capacity for delivery of the training locally in Northern Ireland.

Running for a period of three years, this initiative has trained 300 healthcare professionals, 18 course facilitators and two assessors. An Advanced Communication Skills Forum has also been established to support facilitators and to provide leadership in the ongoing development and planning of the courses.

[Email us to find out more.](#)

Improving the experience of cancer patients visiting emergency departments

The Cancer Standards Manual – “Acute Oncology Measures”, emphasises the need for nurses in A&E to have the knowledge and skills to care for cancer patients appropriately. With funding support from Macmillan, a team at the Royal Marsden have developed a teaching package to help A&E staff manage people with cancer.

Macmillan recently held a Train the Trainer day for 27 emergency and oncology nurses from all over Scotland, who are expected to run the educational session in their emergency departments. This training approach should lead to better experience for people with cancer attending A&E.

[Find out more.](#)

July Get involved

Help us expand the best practice model in palliative care



The Midhurst Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Service has been used as an example of innovative, flexible and community based care in the ‘[Dying well at home: the case for integrated working](#)’ evidence guide, produced by the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE).

Based on the Midhurst service, Macmillan has developed the Macmillan End of Life Care Model.

In the autumn we will be looking for additional services to emulate the model.

[Email us to learn more and to find how you can get involved.](#)

Help people plan ahead

Planning ahead is important, regardless of whether someone has an illness or not. A diagnosis of cancer often prompts people to think about the future, which can be helpful even if the cancer is cured.

Statistics from a 2010 Macmillan survey of 1,019 adults living with cancer in the UK shows that 73% of people with cancer would prefer to die at home, but only 27% of people do. We want to make it easier for people to record their preferences so that their wishes can be carried out.

[Your life and your choices: plan ahead for England and Wales](#) contains easily digestible information and useful documents to record preferences. We encourage you to share this resource with the people you support so that they can feel better prepared and able to make their own decisions.

Be Clear on Cancer - National Lung Campaign launched 2 July

Lung cancer is England's biggest cancer killer claiming around 28,100 lives every year. It is estimated 1,300 deaths could be avoided each year if lung cancer survival rates in England matched the best in Europe.

The national 'reminder' campaign, run by Public Health England in partnership with NHS England and the Department of Health, will run from 2 July until mid-August 2013 to raise awareness of the symptom of a persistent three-week cough. The key message will be promoted across England through a range of different channels including television, radio, press and out of home advertising such as pharmacy bags.

There is a **range of free resources** including briefing sheets, leaflets and posters providing information and support to you during the campaign.