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Wakefield team honoured for life-changing work

A Wakefield-based Macmillan team has been recognised for their inspirational work supporting people affected by head and neck cancer.

Olympic silver medallist and motivational speaker Roger Black MBE presented the Macmillan Head and Neck Cancer Team with their accolade at the prestigious 2015 Macmillan Excellence Awards.

The awards have been developed by Macmillan Cancer Support to celebrate the outstanding work carried out by Macmillan health and social care professionals across the UK. The event recognised excellence in four areas: service improvement, innovation, integration and teamwork.

The Macmillan Head and Neck Cancer Team at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust won the Team Excellence Award. This category honours teams who are not only high-performing and innovative, but the fantastic teamwork they've displayed has meant that people affected by cancer receive an outstanding level of support.

More than 300 Macmillan professionals, as well as representatives from Macmillan and leading healthcare institutions, attended the awards ceremony at The Hilton Metropole Hotel in Birmingham on Thursday 12th November.

The team from Wakefield received a plaque and £500 to mark their achievement. Their work is part of a region-wide initiative called Macmillan Head and Neck Cancer Redesign in West Yorkshire which seeks to improve patient experience. The aim is for head and neck cancer patients to receive care tailored to their needs, while also giving them the support to be able to self-manage their condition and become less reliant on the healthcare system. Work involves Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust; Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust; Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Nina Corfield, Macmillan Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, speaking on behalf of the Macmillan Head and Neck Cancer Team at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "In our roles as Macmillan specialists in head and neck

cancer we feel privileged to work with our patients, who give us the inspiration and motivation that drives us forward. We are all wholly committed to our project to help redesign head and neck cancer services to meet increasing demand whilst maintaining quality patient care.

“Our clinics provide continuity of care from our multidisciplinary team who is there for patients from diagnosis to rehabilitation, and now for cancer follow up, at a one stop clinic. Unfortunately head and neck cancer is on the increase, bringing with it a younger cohort of patients, who need help and support on lots of levels. Traditionally head and neck cancer follow up has always been carried out by Consultants. However, our specialised training has meant that we are now able to take some of the workload from the Consultants and follow up some of the patients ourselves. This way of working is truly pioneering.

“The team has been enhanced by an Alcohol and Well-being Nurse Specialist and Benefits Advisor providing yet more holistic, patient-responsive care. The Alcohol and Wellbeing Nurse is detoxing patients safely in their own homes, at a great cost-saving to the NHS. Our Benefits Advisor is able to work with our very vulnerable group of patients, helping them to claim their benefits which will help, for example, to provide heating in their homes and has also prevented them from being evicted.”

David Melia, Director of Patient and Staff Engagement at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, said: “We are delighted for the Macmillan Head & Neck Cancer Team to be acknowledged with the ‘Team Excellence’ award. The team here at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust do a fantastic job and make an outstanding contribution to the care of people with cancer. They are a highly experienced and professional team who help our patients through some very difficult times. We as a trust are very proud of the support and dedication they offer as a team.”

No one should face cancer alone. For support, information or if you have any questions, call Macmillan Cancer Support free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk.

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For further information, please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

About Macmillan Cancer Support

When you have cancer, you don't just worry about what will happen to your body, you worry about what will happen to your life. At Macmillan, we know how a cancer diagnosis can affect everything and we're here to support you through.

From help with money worries and advice about work, to someone who'll listen if you just want to talk, we'll be there. We are millions of supporters, professionals, volunteers, campaigners and people affected by cancer. Together we make sure there's always someone here for you, to give you the support, energy and inspiration you need to help you feel like yourself again. We are all Macmillan.

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