



WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT **PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release

Nottinghamshire cancer patients to help shape future services

People affected by cancer in Nottinghamshire are being invited to help shape and improve their local cancer services as part of a three million pound cancer improvement programme to radically transform cancer care across the county.

The Macmillan Cancer Partnership in Nottinghamshire is a pioneering programme which aims to improve local cancer services and address the growing number of people surviving and living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis.

Comprised of Nottinghamshire health and social care services, Macmillan and other local voluntary organisations, the programme includes 14 individual projects and pilots all aimed at testing, improving and developing new ways to support people affected by cancer.

The partners will be working with patients and carers to ensure services across the county are more joined up and integrated so that patients receive the right support at the right time to enable them to live as long and healthy a life as possible.

People affected by cancer are being invited to share their views and experiences at an event on Wednesday 10th June and have a say on how their services should be run.

The event aims to find out what is important in the lives of people affected by cancer and what could be done to improve their experience and quality of life. It will also outline ways in which patients and carers can get involved with the programme.

Ann Micklewright, from Newthorpe in Nottinghamshire, cared for both her mother and father when they were diagnosed with cancer and is now chair of the Greater Nottingham Patient and Carer Cancer Forum, which aims to improve cancer services for patients and their carers.

She joined the forum shortly after her mother died from pancreatic cancer following what she describes as an awful experience, which began with her being told of her mother's diagnosis in a busy hospital ward and ended with her mother dying in hospital, lacking support and without the necessary pain relief.

Ann wants to ensure that no one else has to go through the same experience and so joined the forum to make sure the patient voice was heard. She's now involved with the Macmillan Cancer Partnership as a patient representative and has been key to planning the two events.

She said: "I'll never forget my mother's experience. Although things are different now, and we're lucky to have such fantastic hospital staff in Nottingham, there are still improvements that need to be made. There are still improvements that need to be made. Cancer services need to be capable of meeting individual needs. One size doesn't fit all. And it doesn't end when you leave hospital.

Cancer never goes away, it's always there, and we need to make sure that support continues when treatment ends.”

She said: “The patient voice needs to be at the centre of everything. They are the people who are using the services, so they need to be involved in the planning of those services. That's why we want patients to be involved in the Macmillan Cancer Partnership, to tell us what they need from their local services.”

Freda Ingall is a retired nurse from Lambley and a key member of the Nottingham Cancer Support Group for Patients and Carers. Her mother was successfully treated for vulval cancer and her husband and daughter-in-law have both experienced a recent cancer diagnosis. Freda has been a member of the National Cancer Peer Review Team and is also involved in the Macmillan Cancer Partnership as a patient representative.

She said: “Patients and their carers need to be offered meaningful information about their treatment and aftercare to enable them to give their informed consent to treatments and identify ways to promote their own recovery, health and wellbeing. It really comes down to good communication, not just with the patient, but between different health professionals who are involved in that patient's care, to make sure the information and support is joined up and consistent.”

Elaine Wilson, Macmillan Development Manager, said: “The central aim of the Macmillan Cancer Partnership is to put people affected by cancer at the heart of decision making when it comes to care and support for themselves or their loved ones. Therefore the views and input of patients and carers are absolutely crucial. I would compel anyone who has been affected by cancer – either as a current patient, a long term survivor, carer or supporter of someone with cancer - to come along to one of the events to share their experiences and help us to shape local cancer services.”

The event will take place on Wednesday 10th June from 12:00-16:30 at Edwinstowe House, Edwinstowe, Mansfield, NG21 9PR.

Places are limited, so contact us now to book your space. We can help you with travel, pay your expenses and will provide lunch on the day. If you can't make it to the session we still want to hear from you, so please feel free to get in touch. Call 07472 274066 or email eventmanagement@macmillan.org.uk

The Macmillan Cancer Partnership is comprised of Nottingham City CCG, Newark and Sherwood CCG, Mansfield and Ashfield CCG, Macmillan Cancer Support, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Self Help Nottingham and Notts County FC Football in the Community.

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Picture captions:

Picture caption 1: Cancer patients Mr and Mrs Amin and Cherry Davis with the Macmillan Cancer Partnership's Elaine Wilson, Lisa Janiec and Julia King

Picture 2: Mr and Mrs Amin, from Nottingham, who have both been affected by cancer, helping to design their future cancer services

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.

No one should face cancer alone. Call us free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk