

WE WORK TOGETHER

'Speed dating' event for primary and secondary care

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This event was organised by Birmingham and Solihull Macmillan GPs, in partnership with MDM and LDM. Local secondary care clinicians for renal medicine, pain management, urology, oncology, haematology and a chemotherapy specialist nurse were also key guests.

What did we do?

- * Advertised 3 months in advance by email, initially slow uptake but emails from Macmillan GPs increased to capacity.
- * Each table of 4-6 GPs was facilitated by a Macmillan GP alongside a consultant, and one by a chemotherapy specialist nurse.
- * 20 minutes at each table.
- * MDM & LDM set the timetable, ringing the bell at the end of each session.
- * Attendance certificates were sent out electronically, with a summary of learning points collated by each Macmillan GP.
- * Each group had a free session to enable them to visit exhibition stands (benefits information, Macmillan resources, Dying Matters and other relevant local organisations).

Feedback and evaluation

- *We received 27 feedback forms.
- *The overall event was rated excellent and good in the majority.
- *The events relevance to professional needs was rated excellent and good in the majority.
- *The lower scores due to two issues; noisy room, a colleague who monopolised the conversation.

Negative comments → Speakers would have preferred questions beforehand / Some speakers were more dominant than others / Need more time / Noisy room / Not all participants were able to ask their questions

Recommendations and lessons learned

- >> Thorough preparation and timetabling are vital - need people to facilitate the event.
- >> Consultants and facilitators to move tables, with groups staying in one place.
- >> Noise levels were distracting at times.
- >> Only negative feedback was from one delegate who felt others had dominated their group - in future the group facilitator could be more aware of this risk.
- >> Those running stands need to be advised to have posters and a standard quick message for each 20 minute group.
- >> Attendees like to have certificates.
- >> Experts would have liked some questions in advance but none submitted, despite requests.
- >> Name badges for speakers and other key guests.
- >> Briefing notes for facilitators - map of tables, tips for how to start and manage the discussion.

Ideas for future events → Make it clear it's for established GPs not trainees / Consider one for trainees in the future / More input needed on palliative care medication

Positive comments → Pain relief session especially helpful / Time slots did work, brilliant networking / Excellent practical tips / Good organisation / Very interactive