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For immediate use

Doncaster residents living with and beyond cancer get the chance to ‘make a difference’ and help shape cancer support in the town.

Doncaster residents affected by cancer can ‘make their voice heard’ and help improve support available for people living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis, at an engagement afternoon at Doncaster Racecourse on Tuesday 20 October.

The event has been organised by the newly formed the Doncaster Cancer Survivorship Action Group, which is run solely by local people who have experienced cancer. The group’s aim is to improve the support available to Doncaster people living with and beyond cancer.

The group helps shape cancer support in Doncaster by having a seat on the influential local cancer board, regular meetings with health providers and commissioners, key agenda items at Doncaster Council and Doncaster Clinical Commissioning Group health meetings and regular engagement and consultation events.

This presents a positive opportunity for Doncaster people with a cancer diagnosis, or their family, friends and relatives, to make a positive difference and help shape local cancer support.

The engagement session on **Tuesday 20 October runs from 2pm-6pm, at the racecourse on St Ledger Way.** Doncaster residents affected by cancer are being encouraged to drop in at any stage of the afternoon.

Doncaster Cancer Survivorship Action Group Member Brian Wright said: “We formed the group to ensure cancer patients living in the town have a voice and can make a positive difference. The group is run by people living with and beyond cancer *for* people living with and beyond cancer.

“I hope as many Doncaster residents as possible affected by cancer can come along on 20 October to have their say and make local cancer support networks even better. It will be a fairly informal day, where people will have the chance to talk, listen and put across their thoughts and ideas.”

Ally Henshaw, who is a cancer survivor runs thriving local cancer network [Cancer Buddies](#), said: “We want to engage with people living with and beyond a cancer diagnosis and hopefully get them involved in the work of the Doncaster Cancer Survivorship Action Group. People living with cancer are best placed to say what works, what can be improved and what specific cancer support should be available locally.”

Richard Rimmington, who survived Bowel Cancer, said: “The event on 20 October provides a real opportunity for people who have been touched by cancer to get involved and make a difference.”

Anyone interested in attending on 20 October, to find out more information or would like to get involved in the work of Doncaster Cancer Survivorship Action Group should contact event organiser Mary Riches on **07989 193339** or mary.riches2@gmail.com.

Background information

1. The Macmillan Cancer Survivorship Programme links up with key partners like Clinical Commissioning Groups, local authorities and the voluntary sector to deliver better outcomes for people living with and beyond cancer across South Yorkshire, Bassetlaw and North Derbyshire.
2. In Doncaster alone around 8,700 people were living with and beyond cancer in 2010, Macmillan Cancer Support estimates that this could rise to 16,900 by 2030.
3. There are two million people living with or beyond cancer in the UK with the figure set to rise to four million by 2030. This number is increasing due to an ageing population, better treatments and earlier diagnosis through screening programmes - which means people are living for longer and the fact that fewer people are dying of cancer.
4. Further information on the Survivorship Programme can be found at www.macmillan.org.uk/Aboutus/Healthandsocialcareprofessionals/Macmillansprogrammesandservices/Survivorship.asp
5. Further information on the Cancer Buddies can be found at <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/cancerbuddies>

For further press information contact Michael Brooke, Communications Lead, Macmillan Cancer Support on 07850 775537 Twitter [@MacPRNorth](https://twitter.com/MacPRNorth)

Further Information

Over a million people who look after a loved-one with cancer are potentially missing out on vital support and benefits, according to new research by Macmillan Cancer Support.

If you're caring for someone with cancer and need information or support, call 0808 808 00 00 or visit www.macmillan.org.uk/carers

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