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For immediate use

Report praises Macmillan for improving services for thousands of Doncaster cancer patients

The Macmillan Cancer Care Survivorship Programme has made a “positive difference” to the lives of thousands of people in Doncaster living with and beyond cancer.

That was a key finding from the evaluation into phase two of the Survivorship Programme which brought cancer services in the district together with the key aim of improving outcomes for people affected by cancer.

The report highlighted that the main aim of improving cancer outcomes for people living in Doncaster was “progressing well”. The report also welcomed the involvement of people affected by cancer as being “fundamental” to the project, and noted how key partners, including the Clinical Commissioning Group and Doncaster Council, have been “engaged and involved” from the start.

Macmillan Cancer Support was congratulated for being a key “advocate” for the patient voice in Doncaster, for “leading” the survivorship agenda across the district, and for taking “significant steps” towards promoting more holistic care for people affected by cancer.

These findings show that the Survivorship Partnership has met its key aim of 'improving the quality and quantity of support for people living with and beyond cancer' across South Yorkshire, North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw'.

This work will be built on in phase three of the Survivorship Programme, which will build on the successes of phase two in ensuring Doncaster people living with and beyond cancer are supported, engaged and valued.

Macmillan Survivorship Programme Manager Hayley Williams said: "I am pleased with the report's key findings. It outlines how Macmillan Cancer Support is highly regarded by people affected by cancer in Doncaster. The report also praises Macmillan's work in improving services offered to people living with and beyond cancer.

"We are now moving into phase three of the programme. The evaluation was clear that Macmillan is well placed to continue the excellent work it has started in improving the quality and quantity of support for people living with cancer.

"There are many challenges ahead. We have done a lot of good work, but there is still a lot to do. The feedback we have had from cancer patients, and outlined in the evaluation report, has been generally positive and supportive of our work in the Doncaster region."

Doncaster Project Manager Mary Riches said: "It is good news that more and more people are surviving cancer. An important element of Macmillan's work is to ensure effective and tailored recovery packages are offered to people in Doncaster living with and beyond cancer.

"Across the district we have ensured people living with cancer have been engaged, valued and listened to. This has been reflected in the excellent work of the Living Well Hub and Cancer Buddies, which now has over 50 volunteers.

They play a key role in supporting better access to services and emotional support for people living with cancer.

“The work we do is to ensure every cancer patient feels valued and listened to. We have ensured that people living with and beyond cancer have a strong voice in implementing new services. I am delighted that the evaluation has recognised this important work.

“We will continue to take an inclusive approach, with cancer patients at the heart of decision making, as we move into phase three. There are improvements to make and new services to implement, but the foundations are in place for even better service provision for people living with and beyond cancer.”

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. The evaluation report into phase two of the South Yorkshire, Bassetlaw and North Derbyshire Survivorship Programme was undertaken by ICF Consulting Services. A full copy of the document is available on request.
3. The evaluation report’s findings were based on feedback from key stakeholders, including people living with and beyond cancer. A number of interviews were undertaken.
4. 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.

5. Further information on the Survivorship Programme can be found at <http://www.macmillan.org.uk/Aboutus/Healthandsocialcareprofessionals/Macmillansprogrammesandservices/SurvivorshipPartnership.aspx>

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