The Macmillan Integration of Cancer Care Programme has taken a close look at existing pathways from pre-diagnosis through to recovery, survivorship and end of life care. This includes how patients move through the whole healthcare system looking at how all the separate services can work more closely to deliver the right care, in the right place, at the right time, by the right professional.

A review has focussed on three cancer pathways - lung, lymphoma and brain and central nervous system. Simplified care pathways, streamlined referral processes and care closer to home have been identified as key ways of helping patients. Work is underway to put these recommendations into practice.

The programme is led by Carol Taylor, Macmillan Programme Manager. She is supported by Dr Spencer Robinson, Macmillan Service Improvement Lead, Charlotte Lambert, Macmillan Programme Support Officer and Dr Anisah Tariq, Clinical Audit Facilitator. The programme’s sponsor is Dr Angela Wood, Macmillan Consultant Haematologist and Strategic Lead for Cancer. All are based within South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

It’s a partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and organisations including community health, social care, public health and the voluntary sector, as well as patients.
LATEST PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

- As part of a partnership approach, the programme has overseen the development and implementation of a new drop in chest x-ray service in Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland aimed at making it easier for people with signs and symptoms of lung problems to get the help and treatment they need early. Aimed at people aged 50 and over who currently smoke or heavy smokers who have recently quit, this pilot scheme is working out of three community settings. For more information, visit www.southtees.nhs.uk/services/cancer or www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/reduce-your-risk.

- Brand new care roles have been created to support people living with cancer in Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and the rural Yorkshire Dales. Three new Macmillan community nursing roles aim to provide support for a patient from the point of diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. The new staff will be visiting patients at home and in surgeries. In addition to this, eight new Macmillan Cancer Care Coordinators have joined the team. Working out of The James Cook University Hospital, the coordinators provide support for cancer nurse specialists and work directly with patients to help them navigate through the healthcare system.

- A new clinical audit facilitator has started working as part of the programme team. The role focuses on patients who arrive in hospital via A&E and subsequently are diagnosed with latter stage lung or brain and CNS cancers – it looks at what barriers there might have been to accessing treatment at an earlier stage. The role has been jointly funded by Macmillan and the Northern Cancer Alliance.

- The South Tees Optical Referral Project (STORP) continues across the area. The project involves local opticians, which refer patients directly to the neurosciences team at The James Cook University Hospital if concerns are picked up during an eye test. Opticians can pick up anomalies during an eye examination, which could indicate brain tumours and stroke/transient ischemic attacks in some patients.

Partners in the Macmillan Integration of Cancer Care Programme are:

- South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Macmillan Cancer Support
- Middlesbrough Council
- South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group
- Teesside Hospice
- Hambleton, Richmondshire & Whitby Clinical Commissioning Group
- Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
- Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency

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