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Trustee Visit After Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Service Test Models In Salford And Wigan Secure Recurrent Funding.

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust's Specialist Palliative Care Service team was visited by Macmillan's Chair of Trustees Richard Murley on Monday, so he could hear first-hand from staff about the enhanced and extended 7-day service.

The visit followed the announcement that the successful test services in Salford and Wigan were to receive recurrent funding.

Macmillan Cancer Support had invested £2 million to enhance palliative care in both Salford and Wigan through a partnership co-ordinated by Greater Manchester (GM) Cancer and delivered through Salford Royal and St Ann's Hospice; and Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust and Wigan & Leigh Hospice.

The services now provide face-to-face, senior clinical support for patients with advancing cancer and other life-limiting illnesses 7-days a week throughout the year. Prior to the investment the 7-day services were staffed by fewer clinicians during weekends and bank holidays and were unable to provide the same level of care as was provided on weekdays.

It is hoped that the successes of the test models can demonstrate the potential for excellent 7-day specialist palliative care and support across the region.

The appointment of key staff and provision of advanced clinical skills and prescribing training has already shown ongoing improvements in outcomes for palliative and end of life patients across Wigan and Salford.

Jane Melvin Head Of Partnerships North and Northwest, Macmillan Cancer Support said: "We are delighted that through Macmillan's £2 million funding there is now 7-day year-round face-to-face senior clinical care for patients and families requiring end of life and palliative care in Wigan and Salford. It is delivering improved outcomes to patients and will now be sustained going forward, which is what all partners hoped when we entered into this partnership."

Dr Janet Hegarty, Deputy Medical Director and Consultant in Kidney Medicine at Salford Royal, said: "We were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase this programme of work, which we know has helped to improve the experience of so many patients and their loved ones."

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“This work centred around taking practical steps to ensure we can offer patients and their relatives the same quality of specialist palliative care on a weekend and bank holidays as they would receive throughout the week. Our new model of care means that seven-days-a-week we can offer an expert, senior palliative care health professional across the hospital and community.”

Sian Burgess, Head of Clinical Services, St Ann’s Hospice said: “This has been such a fantastic, collaborative project and we’re thrilled that funding has been secured to continue it. It is such a great example of organisations working together and ensuring the patient remains at the heart of every decision made – improving their outcomes, and ensuring their individual needs are met. We’re really excited to continue to develop this work further to continue improving access to our specialist services for local patients.”

Jo Carby, Clinical Director of Wigan and Leigh Hospice, said: "This project has meant we’ve been able to provide two specialist community nurses at weekends and bank holidays rather than one, which significantly increased the care and support we are able to provide for patients and those people caring for them in their own homes or care home. "We are delighted that funding has been secured to ensure that we can continue working in this way.”

Dr Jenny Wiseman, Palliative medicine consultant, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust and project lead said: “This Macmillan funded project has enabled us to increase the staffing and enhance skills of the Hospital palliative care team so that two nurse specialists work each weekend day and a senior doctor does face to face assessments in the hospital and community during weekends. We see daily the benefits of this collaborative work with our hospital and community colleagues to really make a difference to the support patients, their families and our staff receive.

“We are delighted that funding has been agreed so this essential Service can continue.”

More info contact Michelle O’Leary on 07787375172

About Macmillan Cancer Support

We’re here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we’re right there with you.

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