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Successful Wigan Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Service Secures Recurrent Funding

The success of Wigan's Macmillan Specialist Palliative Care Service has been recognised with the awarding of recurrent funding from healthcare commissioners.

The 7-day service now provides face-to-face, senior clinical support for patients with advancing cancer and other life-limiting illnesses 365 days a year. Prior to Macmillan's initial investment the 7-day service was staffed by fewer clinicians during weekends and bank holidays and was unable to provide the same level of care as was provided on weekdays.

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

The services achieved recurrent funding after they showed ongoing improvements in outcomes for palliative and end of life patients across Wigan and Salford.

Macmillan's funding had enabled the appointment of key staff and provision of advanced clinical skills and prescribing training.

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.

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."

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 across Wigan for patients and those

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people caring for them in their own homes or care homes.

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.”

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.

“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.”

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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About Recurrent Funding

The palliative care services in Wigan and Salford have been recurrently funded by the Trusts’ commissioning provider to support both NHS and Hospice patients.

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