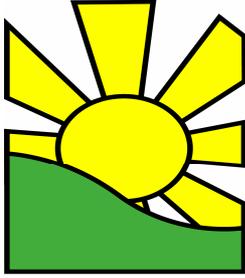


Working in partnership with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust



Shropshire & Mid Wales
Cancer Forum

Notes from the meeting held 9th October, 2012 at the Hamar Centre, Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, Shrewsbury

Present:

Sian Hallewell (Chair), Geoff Searson, Colin Stedgeman, Ray Dowling, Greg Heywood, Rob Gough, David Whiting

Apologies:

Alan Morrison, Sue Wreglesworth

Notes of the last meeting

These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

Matters arising

Greg has met with Elizabeth Saunders regarding cancer information prescriptions.

Haematology letter – Rob has received no reply from Birmingham regarding accreditation.

Display barrier & information – Rob will take this to the Learning centre at RSH.

New projects

Sian asked the group whether they thought the forum should consider making a bid for funding for a dietician or nutritionalist to support cancer patients. It is thought that this service is only available to head & neck patients, but would be of use to a wider audience. Greg said that a number of patients that he has seen as part of the exercise and cancer project were also wanting diet advice. Sian has contacted a nutritionalist who works at the Haven in Hereford. This person currently offers private 1 to 1 sessions with patients but thought that a workshop would also be a good way to communicate with patients. The cost of engaging this person for a 2 hour session would be £100. After discussion, the forum thought that holding a workshop at the Hamar Centre might be viable, perhaps aiming it at breast patients (based on the advice of the Haven nutritionalist that this was a group that often accessed her service) and also the people referred to the exercise and cancer project. Geoff also shared his personal experiences and the forum thought that he should write this up and place it on the website, it was interesting to hear that his non-dairy approach has been very beneficial.

ACTION – Sian to explore the possibility of organising a workshop at the Hamar Centre, using the Haven nutritionalist, either funded by the forum or by approaching Macmillan.

Exercise project

Greg introduced the project to members of the forum, explaining that it was an evidence based pilot project aiming to support people having cancer treatments to become as active as they felt possible. In the first 3 months there have been 33 patients signing on to the project. There have been some misconceptions from patients such as them expecting physiotherapy or dietary advice. Greg explained that there appeared to be a block whereby Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) were not generally referring people to the service as had been envisaged. David mentioned that he and Miranda Ashwell (PCT project lead for this project) have a meeting arranged with the SaTH cancer lead nurse to discuss this issue. Forum members who were not aware of the project wished to know whether it was open to all cancer patients wherever they were on their pathway. Greg confirmed that it was and explained that a referral was needed from a health professional and that this could come from primary care.

ACTION – David to report back to the forum on any progress made following the meeting with Jessica Hancox, the SaTH cancer lead nurse.

Patient experience survey

Sian identified a couple of areas of particular concern. These are some headline findings;

Red results

- Staff gave complete explanation of purpose of test(s)
- Patient felt they were told sensitively that they had cancer
- Patient finds it easy to contact their CNS
- Doctor had the right notes and other documentation with them
- Patient offered written assessment and care plan

Green results

- Hospital staff gave information about support groups
- Got understandable answers to important questions all/most of the time
- Patient had confidence and trust in all ward nurses
- Patient was able to discuss worries or fears with staff during visit
- Waited no longer than 30 minutes for OPD appointment to start

Big changes compared to 2010 survey (+/- 5% change)

5% or more better

- Hospital staff told patient they could get free prescriptions

5% or more worse

- Patient told they could bring a friend when first told they had cancer
- Patient finds it easy to contact their CNS
- Hospital staff gave information about support groups
- Hospital staff gave information on getting financial help
- Staff definitely did everything to control side effects of chemotherapy
- Hospital staff definitely gave patient enough emotional support
- Hospital and community staff always worked well together

Sian also identified that the report for SaTH could be broken down by specialty and that urology had not been well thought of. David stated that Macmillan may be doing an in-depth analysis of the results and would ask the local Macmillan rep Tudor Humphries if he knows about it.

ACTION – David to make enquiries of Macmillan regarding any in-depth analysis they may have completed which we could use.

Feedback from meetings

Sian attended the cancer Network Development Partnership meeting in London. There is a lunchtime event at the Albrighton offices to celebrate the work of the Partnership.

Rob attended the last Network Board meeting – the Network formally finished on 19th October. This effectively means that there is no way to claim expenses for forum members from the current route and that people should now send claims to the forum treasurer.

David said that the local health economy meeting to replace the cancer LIT has finally held its first meeting. It will be a strategic level meeting with the power to form working groups and one-off meetings to look at particular issues

Date of next meeting

The next meeting is on 13th November in the Hamar Centre at 2:30 (informally from 2pm)