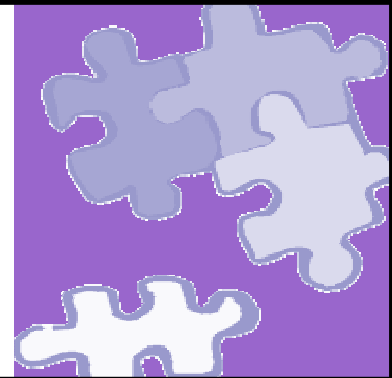


Harrogate Cancer Action Partnership Newsletter December 2007



Support from Macmillan

Paul Kerr, Macmillan Community Networks Development Coordinator for the East Midlands and Northern England, came along to the Partnership meeting on 5 December.

Paul links in with local Cancer User Involvement Groups, providing advice on finances, training etc. As members will be aware, Macmillan provide Cancer Voices training and also give people the opportunity to attend conferences but Paul explained that they have also created a Cancer Voices Network and are keen to get more people involved. A 'Cancer Voice' is someone who signs up to actively use their experience of cancer to improve cancer care. Macmillan run an 'Opportunities Exchange' which helps people to find out about opportunities to do this locally and nationally. There is more information on the Cancer Voices website www.macmillan.org.uk/cancervoices or you can ring the Macmillan CancerLine on 0808 808 2020.

The area Paul covers is very wide but it is hoped that Macmillan may be able to fund a second worker to share the workload. He told the meeting that Macmillan can often assist support groups by providing grants. Paul is willing to come along to talk to local support groups and can be contacted at PKerr@macmillan.org.uk or on 01423 506253.

Members present at the meeting on 5 December

Hazel McGrath
Chair (Harrogate
CVS)

Anne Alblas
Harrogate CVS

Barbara Blackwell
Harrogate ABC

Helen Flynn Ripon
CVS

Tony Hall
Prosper

Tony Kerr
MacMillan
Community
Networks
Development
Coordinator

Jim McIntyre
Prosper

Clare Newton
Harrogate CVS

Alan Rawson
Encore

Liz Vickerstaff
North Yorkshire &
York PCT

Changes of Venue

- The Golden Girls Group now meets at Harrogate Fire Station.
- Encore, the Colorectal group, is moving its meetings to Bilton Cricket Club.

Free Audiotapes

CancerBackup and Cancer Research UK provide free cancer information and audio tapes for anyone affected by cancer. They have recently added some new titles. For more information visit www.cancerbackup.org.uk or ring the Cancerbackup helpline 0808 800 1234

Harrogate Cancer Action Partnership Meetings 2007/8

Tuesday 5 February 2008 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Wednesday 9 April 2008 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Tuesday 10 June 2008 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Wednesday 24 September 2008 2.30 - 4.30 pm

Wednesday 3 December 2008 2.30 - 4.30 pm

All at Community House, Harrogate



Harrogate Cancer Action Partnership Work Plan Update

- **Cancer Steering Group** It has now been agreed that the Harrogate and York Steering Groups will merge - probably from April 2008. (Prior to this date it is planned to hold two more meetings of the existing Harrogate/Craven Cancer Steering Group.) The new group will be known as a Cancer **Strategy** Group rather than a Steering Group. It is proposed that a third of the meeting should cover topics relating to Harrogate, a third should cover topics relating to York and the middle third of the meeting should cover more strategic matters. This will mean that those people particularly interested in matters affecting Harrogate or York will not need to attend the whole meeting unless they wish to. The venue will probably alternate between Harrogate and York.
- **Psychological Support** A meeting has been held between the North Yorkshire and York PCT and the Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust to review the provision of psychological support services to cancer patients. The Trust have given assurances that the development of these services will be given the highest priority.
- **Palliative Care Services** Liz Vickerstaff is conducting an 'end of life' review on behalf of the PCT and a questionnaire has been developed. So far the response has not been particularly good and Liz is looking afresh at ways of collecting information. She is hoping to have a draft completed by Christmas and a meeting will be held early next year to consolidate the review and plan the future Strategy. The date of this meeting will be notified in due course.

Attracting New Members

Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust will be putting an article about the Harrogate Cancer Action Partnership in its Trust Members' newsletter. The Cancer Nurse Specialists have also been asked to encourage support group members to consider joining. The possibility of holding another event on the lines of the very successful one held in 2004 is being considered.

Cancer Reform Strategy

The Department of Health's Cancer Reform Strategy was recently published. A five page Executive Summary is available - contact Anne Alblas at Harrogate CVS if you would like a copy (tel 01423 504074 or email anne@harrogate.org)

Two New Support Groups

2BC is a Secondary Breast Cancer group which will meet bi-monthly on a Wednesday at the Harrogate Fire Station 5.30 - 7.30 pm. For more information contact Janet O'Brien on 01423 553398 email janet.obrien@hdft.nhs.uk A General Haematology Support Group is also being set up - for further details contact Lucy Ward on 01423 555882 email lucy.ward@hdft.nhs.uk

Harrogate Cancer Steering Group Change of date

The meeting scheduled for 13 December has been postponed until Thursday 24 January 2008. The venue will be the Ripon Room at the Hamlet from 12 noon until 2.00 pm. If service users/carers would like to attend could they please contact Hazel McGrath on 01423 504074 email hazel@harrogate.org

The next meeting of the Harrogate Cancer Action Partnership will be on Tuesday 5 February 2008 at 10.30 am at Community House, 46-50 East Parade, Harrogate.

This Newsletter has been produced by Harrogate & Area Council for Voluntary Service, Community House, 46-50 East Parade, Harrogate HG1 5RR Tel (01423) 504074 Fax 01423 502126 Email cvs@harrogate.org Website www.harrogate.org Registered Charity No 701266

