Welcome to the third edition of the newsletter from the Macmillan User Involvement team at Manchester Cancer.

L-R: Lucie, Michelle, Tanya, Jonathan and Hannah

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LEILA’S STORY

Leila was diagnosed with leukaemia aged 13, and then again at 16. She was treated with chemotherapy, radiotherapy and received a bone marrow transplant at the Royal Manchester Children’s Hospital.

“He although I am in remission,” says Leila, “cancer is still a big part of my life. I have painful side-effects from my treatment but this hasn’t stopped me living life to the full. I’ve completed a 190 metre zip-wire across Old Trafford, and abseiled down Quay House in Spinningfields to raise money for cancer charities!”

“I feel really strongly that young people’s voices are heard when cancer services are developed,” says Leila, who recently attended an event that Manchester Cancer organised for teenagers and young adults affected by cancer. At the event, issues around Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) cancer services were discussed, and together the group identified ways to improve early diagnosis and support after treatment. Their ideas have been fed back to the TYA Pathway Board to help improve the patient experience.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th December
Christmas Party

14th December
User Involvement Matters

4th Jan
Induction Session

7th Jan
Steering Group Meeting

For more information or to register for any of these events, please contact the team on 0161 918 2368 or email mc.userinvolvement@nhs.net

The Manchester Cancer User Involvement team would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all your support this year and we look forward to working alongside you to improve cancer services in 2016!
Have you been affected by cancer? By sharing your experiences and opinions, you can help improve cancer services. If you’re a patient, family member, carer or friend, we would love to hear from you.

To find out more, please call us on 0161 918 2368, or email mc.userinvolvement@nhs.net.

Sharing our successes with other Macmillan Professionals
At the Macmillan Professionals conference in November the User Involvement Team had the opportunity to exhibit a poster showcasing project work. It was really important to us that the poster and cards were co-produced with people affected by cancer, and it was at the Learning and Development sub-group that the ‘Tree of User Involvement’ was born! The poster allowed us to discuss with colleagues from the across the UK the benefits of user involvement and coproduction in the development of services and share some top tips! If you would like to see a final copy of the poster email mc.userinvolvement@nhs.net.

Attending Pathway Boards and Groups
Recruitment has been underway for people affected by cancer to be represented at Board meetings and a number of people will be taking up their place early in the New Year. Mike, who recently observed the Psychological pathway group as a patient representative to get a taste for how the meetings work, said, “I found the experience fascinating, and I’m looking forward to being fully involved in some capacity in the future, if possible as a board member.”

Tanya Humphreys is the Macmillan User Involvement Lead at Manchester Cancer. Tanya is passionate about making a difference to the lives of people affected by cancer and a true advocate for services that are co-produced with service users and the benefits that this brings. “I feel privileged to be working alongside people affected by cancer and ensuring that they are at the heart of improvements to cancer services across Greater Manchester and East Cheshire.”

Tanya recently received a Macmillan Excellence Award in recognition of her work at Bolton Hospice, where she demonstrated enormous skill, determination and vision to develop a service based on genuine collaboration and meaningful user involvement. Tanya was presented with the award at the Macmillan Professionals conference by Olympic medal winner Roger Black.

Greater Manchester Cancer Vanguard
Together with Manchester Cancer and Trafford CCG, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust has successfully applied to be a ‘National Vanguard’ site. This means they will develop an innovative new model of care for cancer. They aim to transform cancer services by creating a ‘single system leader’ for Greater Manchester, giving The Christie a strengthened role in coordinating and supporting organisations to deliver effective cancer care, across the entire pathway.

The Christie will work with The Royal Marsden and University College London Hospitals to develop a model that can be implemented in other regions as well. This is an exciting time and the models that are implemented will have a lasting impact on cancer patients across the country.

For more information, please visit www.gmcancervanguard.org