

The CCG believes the Government must ensure everyone living with and after cancer has access to appropriate care and support

The Government must be ambitious in its plan to drive improvements in cancer services and patient experience to make the UK's cancer outcomes and care equal to the best in Europe in the next decade.

To this end the Cancer Campaigning Group (CCG) is calling for change in six priority areas. This briefing sets out the CCG vision for survivorship.

There are currently over two million people living with or after cancer in the UK and by 2030 there will be four million.ⁱ This demographic challenge means that the NHS will need to be more effective and efficient if it is to treat and support rising numbers of cancer patients and survivors.

We are pleased to see continued support for the National Cancer Survivorship Initiative in *Improving Outcomes: A Strategy for Cancer*. The CCG also welcomes the fact that cancer will be measured as part of the long-term conditions domain of *The NHS Outcomes Framework 2011/12* – recognition that cancer is, for many, a condition they will live with for a significant amount of time, requiring care and support in the community.

We know that personalised care plans enable more patients with long-term conditions to self-manage their condition, improve survival rates and quality of life, and reduce avoidable and costly hospital admissions.ⁱⁱ To ensure everyone living with and

after cancer gets the support they need to get their lives back on track, the CCG wants every cancer patient, at key points in the cancer pathway, to be offered a personalised assessment of their on-going physical, psychological, social, practical, financial and spiritual needs which is then written up into a care plan. For cancer survivors, this process is particularly crucial when initial cancer treatment has finished.

Given this, we are delighted that the Minister for Care Services, Paul Burstow, said in Parliament: *“All people living with one or more long-term conditions, including those with cancer, should be offered a personalised care plan to support improved choice and control.”*

To ensure this support is delivered on the ground, the CCG wants personalised care plans to be included in the NICE quality standards for cancer and for the NHS Commissioning Board to support care plans in its commissioning guidance and through the Commissioning Outcomes Framework. The CCG also calls for appropriate support services to be made available for cancer patients and survivors, in line with existing clinical guidelines and the NICE support and palliative care guidance.ⁱⁱⁱ This support should be available to cancer survivors for as long as they require it.

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are ideally placed to provide tailored support to patients throughout their cancer pathway which includes the development of personalised care plans for cancer survivors. As demonstrated through the findings of the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey 2010 and in *Excellence in Cancer Care: the Contribution of the Clinical Nurse Specialist*, CNSs contribute to improved outcomes and experiences of patients as well as potentially saving the NHS significant amounts of money. As such, the CCG is calling for the Government to support and protect CNS services.

People living with or beyond cancer should be able to enjoy their lives, with a full range of opportunities and life chances no matter who they are, where they live or their age. For cancer patients of working age, this can mean support to overcome the main barriers that prevent them from successfully remaining in, or returning to, work. The CCG wants information about working through, or returning to work after, cancer to be routinely offered by the NHS; and for the Government's new Work Programme to offer tailored support for people with cancer. For younger cancer patients the CCG believes educational support should be available and, where appropriate, help to access the work market.

We also want people living with advanced or active disease to be supported to manage their conditions and for all cancer survivors to be able to re-enter the system rapidly if recurrence is identified or because of the late effects of treatment.



For further information on this briefing please contact
Lucy Grove - LGrove@macmillan.org.uk

i Macmillan Cancer Support estimate. Analysis based on Maddams J, et al. (2009), 'Cancer prevalence in the United Kingdom: estimates for 2008', *British Journal of Cancer* 101: 541-547

ii Department of Health (2010), *Supporting people with Long Term Condition: Commissioning Personalised Care Planning, A Guide for Commissioners*, London: Department of Health

iii National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2004), *Improving Supportive and Palliative Care for Adults with Cancer*, London: National Institute for Health and Social care