

OUR CANCER OUR WAY

Cancer services for children, teenagers and young adults - co-production of improvements.

Wessex Cancer Alliance has secured funding from the NHS England Experience of Care Team to support the development of system wide coproduction of improvements in networked cancer services for children, teenagers and young adults (CTYA).

WHO WILL DO THIS WORK?

This work is being led by Louise Hooker, Clinical Advisor for the Wessex Cancer Alliance on CTYA cancer services. We will work with voluntary sector partners, Wessex Voices and Healthwatch Dorset, drawing on their coproduction skills and experience working with children, teenagers and young adults, supporting and encouraging them to express their thoughts, feelings, hopes and fears. Throughout the project we will work alongside the clinical cancer teams across Wessex, via the CTYA's Cancer Network coordinating groups.

WHAT WILL THIS WORK INVOLVE?

We will plan and deliver a programme of varied and creative engagement to explore the patient and family perspective of the whole cancer journey, including engagement with primary care, education and training, their workplace, social care, and benefits – all of which have an enormous bearing on their experience and broader outcomes. We will not just be using the usual surveys and focus groups. Methods will be imaginative, age-appropriate and engaging so we will use blogs, vlogs and a range of arts engagement tools that are achievable alongside active treatment and given Covid restrictions, available on remote platforms alongside paper based, in person activities. We are though mindful not to exclude those without access to digital technology.

WHAT LONG TERM DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?

This work will enable us to identify opportunities for service improvement. Strategic and operational plans must be informed by the experiences and priorities of young service users and their families. We want to co-design a system that better meets the particular and broad needs of children, teenagers and young adults and their families. We will ensure methods for listening to needs, and then implementing change through co-design is part of our culture and ongoing service delivery.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you want more information or want to support this work in any way, please contact:

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