

SCN Partnership Group

JULY
NEWSLETTER 2010

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Further newsletter copies can be downloaded from the website

www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk

Contributions from Members are always welcome; please send information to the Network Office.

If you would like a full copy of any of the information obtained in this Newsletter, please contact either:

Mandy Lynch on amanda.lynch@scn.nhs.uk

Caroline Huff on caroline.huff@scn.nhs.uk

or phone: 01273 545448

Sussex Cancer Network
Prestamex House,
171-173 Preston Road
Brighton, East Sussex
BN1 6AG

part of the NHS Sussex Cancer Network

Newsletter

The Partnership Group will meet
on

**Saturday
17th July**

at

**36-38 Friars Walk
Lewes, BN7 2PB
10am to 1.30pm**

a talk by

Clare Dikken

Macmillan Senior Chemotherapy Nurse

**Chemotherapy
in Sussex**

All are welcome

for more information

Tel: 01273 545448

www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk

Peggy White

11 Jan 1928 — 14 May 2010

We have received some very sad news. Peggy White, who was a member of the Sussex Cancer Network Partnership Group for over 11 years, sadly passed away on the 15th May 2010.

Peggy has been a leading light on involving people affected by cancer in improving services across the Sussex Cancer Network.

Peggy was a very meticulous person, she'd digest huge NHS documents and deliver well thought through comments and views. She always managed to hone in on the points that were really important to patients and carers. Always, considerate and balanced in her approach, Peggy's appearance with her lovely blue twinkley eyes and hand knitted cardies were somehow at odds with the laser sharpness of her observations and influence.

As a very active member of the SCN Partnership Group, Peggy took on the role of membership co-ordinator and buddy of new members ensuring that they were welcomed, valued and supported to stay with the group for continued involvement. This has increased membership and ensured a continued refreshment of views into the group. And, as a result, we now have patients and carer members sitting alongside doctors and nurses on most of the expert cancer groups across Sussex. We also now have sufficient members to work on specific local projects that are of particular concern to cancer patients and carers such as making chemotherapy and radiotherapy services more accessible.

Peggy's influence was extremely wide reaching and because of her natural modesty, not always apparent at first sight. She assisted in developing and approving many leaflets and documents which made a real difference to patients. She produced excellent reports at every level, highlighting key issues and needs of local patients, always sublimating her own recent poor health in order to attend meetings, and conferences.

Here are just a few of the other things that Peggy influenced;

- The quality and acceptance of patient and public involvement in cancer services by being a tireless advocate of patient involvement.
- Agreements on major decisions about cancer services' by being an active patient representative on the SCN Executive Board and being an excellent role model
- Ensuring the patient's perspective is taken into account. Peggy's involvement has also encouraged others to work with the SCN to ensure their experiences help improve services.
- As an active member of the SCN Palliative Care Group and the SCN Skin Cancer Group, Peggy has supported the group to learn how to involve patients and ensure patient/carer involvement is understood and delivered.
- By being involved in curriculum development for nurse education at the University of Brighton and presenting to post-registration cancer health care professionals, Peggy ensured that learners were hearing real stories and a personal perspective on what is important for patients through their diagnosis, treatment, survivorship and palliative care phase.
- By taking a particular interest in aftercare and end of life issues, Peggy has driven forward the wider agenda for patients/carers beyond treatment.
- By presenting at the SCN Conferences, Peggy has helped to raise the profile of the issues for patients/carers and demonstrated the value and subsequent increase in patient/carer involvement.

Peggy's dedication and contributions have been outstanding and she will be sadly missed across the whole Sussex Cancer Network.



Peggy celebrating her 80th Birthday at a Partnership Group meeting

Partnership Group Reports

Brief Summary of the SCN Partnership Group Annual Review meeting held on 15th May 2010

- ◆ **Presentation: Deborah Tomalin (SCN Network Director)** gave an interesting talk titled 'All in a day's work'. She first gave a summary of her career within the NHS which began with a nursing degree. Deborah has been with the Sussex Cancer Network since 1999 originally starting as a Development Manager for Cancer Services with East Sussex, Brighton & Hove Health Authority. She then became the Network Lead Manager in 2001 and the Network Director in 2004. In April 2010, she took on the role of the Sussex Managed Clinical Network Director in addition to her responsibilities as the SCN Director.
- ◆ The **main meeting agenda** followed the presentation. **SCN Partnership Group Work Plan** MB circulated a first draft work plan for 2010 /11 which summaries the following > Watching briefs. > Ongoing work to be taken forward in 2010 and beyond. > Summary of the new work to be taken forward as identified at the Review Day Partnership Group meeting in March)
- ◆ **Consultation on Network Partnership Group Measures – response from SCN** The Network Partnership Group Draft Measurements document was tabled and MB reported that the measures had been discussed in detail at the Partnership's Strategy Group. From this, Caroline Huff drafted a very comprehensive response to the consultation and a summary of the two key suggested measures which will particularly affect the Partnership Group are: > Terms of Reference > Guidelines on patient-centred care. Agreement was made to send through responses as a group and the consultation pro forma to be circulated to those interested (CM/JW/LF/RB/AG/HO'G/MV/JL/PT).
- ◆ **Update on User Involvement in Commissioning** MB highlighted the two projects looking at user involvement in commissioning services; Chemotherapy services in Brighton & Hove and Radiotherapy services in West Sussex. She reiterated that both projects cannot be looked at in isolation due to neighbouring localities needing to be considered.
- ◆ **East Sussex Report on User Involvement in Chemotherapy** MB fed back to the group that this has gone well. A Patients Reference panel report on the development of services has been produced and has been shared with NHS Brighton & Hove and NHS West Sussex.

Mandy Lynch

Summary of the SCN Executive Board meeting held 18th June

- > The Board acknowledged Peggy White's contribution to the SCN and as a member of the Executive Board.
- > Deborah Tomalin has been appointed Director of the Sussex Managed Networks at a time of great uncertainty as there is no indication of funding for the future and the roles of the Networks are being considered.
- > The South East Coast Drugs Group are evaluating new drugs across the three counties which is a saving on administration and labour and hopes to achieve consistency.
- > The SCN Annual Report was discussed and when complete will be available on the Website.
- > The Radiotherapy machines available in the area are not able to meet the needs of the patients requiring treatment on the present number of machines in use at Brighton. The heavy workload is putting strain on the machines and extending the hours worked is not possible without increasing the staff. It has proved difficult to obtain the number of students needed to commence a Sussex Radiotherapy School but work in this area is taking place with the Portsmouth School. The satellite radiotherapy unit at Eastbourne will not be in use until 2012.

Margaret Ticehurst

New Cancer Support Centre

On 28th June Macmillan launched their appeal to raise funds for the building of the New Sussex Cancer Information and Support Centre. The Sussex Cancer Fund and BSUH have already set aside £2 million, with over £3 million still to be collected. Plans will be completed in October 2010, with the 12-month building project starting at the end of 2011. From a patients perspective, I asked Simon Henderson about how the Brighton model will compare to other Macmillan Centres that have been set up across the country. Flagship was the word used! We have a large building that will house lots of services/support. How fantastic is that! I asked Simon how they will prioritise the services they decide to provide for Sussex patients. It will depend on demand, ie. some areas of support are already being provided in the area so won't be addressed. I personally would like to see these relocated to the new building so that patients and carers know they have one place to go....like a centre of excellence. I met another patient who was also involved in the promotional DVD and we said we were pleasantly pleased / relieved with the finished product as we had to wait till the evening of the launch to see how we appeared on camera! Copies of the DVD are available to anybody who would like to become involved with fundraising for this Macmillan appeal. In summary, the project launch evening was buzzing with excitement with lots of committee members wanting to get fundraising events up and running ASAP for this brilliant cause - and all because they want to help the future of Sussex cancer patients and carers. Leaves you feeling very humble.

Della Lamden

Partnership Group meetings for the remainder of 2010

18th September 13th November

All meetings to be held on a Saturday
10am to 1.30pm at 36-38 Friars Walk, Lewes

WANTED - Reps on Groups

The Partnership Group need more patients and carer representatives on some of the various groups and committees which form the Sussex Cancer Network. If you are interested in becoming involved with one of the following groups, please contact **Caroline Huff for further details - 01273 545448**

Tumour Groups - Lung <> Haematology <> Sarcoma <> Head & Neck <> Upper GI

Generic Group - Radiotherapy

Cancer Action Group - Central Sussex

Executive Meetings - Lead Cancer Nurses/AHP Group <> Clinical Advisory Group

South East Coast - New Cancer Drugs & Therapeutics Evaluation Committee

Summary of Communications Group meeting held 15th June 2010

Present: MT, RB, MB, DL

> **Leaflets - Complementary Therapies & Help Yourself Leaflets** Maxine to ask Caroline Huff about progress. Post meeting note: Caroline has written to Drug Companies to request funding for printing of the leaflets. *Exemption Certificate Leaflet* - This has been printed.

> **Junior Doctors Guide to the NHS** - Need to confirm that this is now part of the list of documents available to new members. **Action:** Della and Mandy to confirm please

> **Partnership Group Promotional Card** - Roger produced a *draft* card and has taken comments for development of a version 2.

> **Newsletter** - The draft newsletter was reviewed and comments given. An article on the launch of the Macmillan Information Centre would be included, together with info of the Macmillan conference in October. **Action:** Maxine to obtain date of conference. Post meeting note – Macmillan contacted and date requested. Agreed to include an article about Peggy White. **Action:** Maxine and Caroline

> **Future speakers** - Maxine has emailed Sarah Doffman inviting her to speak at a future meeting. Also agreed to invite Angus Robinson to a future meeting to talk about the Research Network

> **Meeting in July** - Clare Dikken will be talking about Chemotherapy Services in Sussex. We anticipate that this will be of great interest to members who have been involved in Chemotherapy reviews and discussions may be detailed. The meeting room to be arranged around tables on this occasion. **Action:** Maxine to advise Mandy about room layout.

Date of next meeting 11am Tuesday 17th August 2010 at Prestamex House

Maxine Bullen

Recruitment to the NCEI

Role Profile for **Service User Member of the National Cancer Equality Initiative Implementation Advisory Group**



National Cancer Action Team

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Role: | Service User Members of the NCEI Implementation Advisory Group |
| Duration: | 18 months |
| Working Relationships: | Other members of the NCEI Advisory Group, NCEI secretariat |
| Expenses: | Travel expenses will be reimbursed |
| Application Deadline: | Forms must be received, by post or email by <u>Friday 23 July</u> at the latest. |
| Interviews: | Telephone interviews will be held on <u>Friday 6 August</u> (with some flexibility if this date is not at all possible) |
| | |

Role description

Consumer members are required to contribute to the activities of the NCEI Implementation Advisory group by:

- ◆ Regularly attending and actively participating in NCEI Implementation Advisory Group meetings. The Advisory Group meets on average, 3-4 times per year.
- ◆ Assisting the group in understanding the perspectives of patients, carers and the public as relevant to the Advisory Group's work.
- ◆ Preparing for group meetings by reading meeting papers and raising any issues for clarification with the NCEI Secretariat during or before the meeting as appropriate.
- ◆ Abiding by any requests for confidentiality.

Role requirements

Consumer members are required to have:

- Current or recent experience (ideally within the past 3-5 years) of cancer services as a patient.
- Particular interest in or understanding of one or more of the equality groups.
- Willingness to become familiar with relevant equalities terms.
- Knowledge and understanding of the service user perspective, with an ability to raise broader range of service user perspectives beyond their own personal experience.
- The ability to recognise and encourage diversity of input from service user communities.
- Good communication skills with an ability to listen to others and constructively express own view from a service user perspective.
- An ability to work effectively and constructively as part of a team within a mixed group of professionals
- An understanding of the relevance of consumer involvement in the work of NCEI

The NCEI meet 3-4 times a year, all meetings are held in London and last for approximately 3 hours. In addition, sometimes members may be invited to work on specific tasks that emerge from the work of the groups. If you are interested in applying as a service user member of the NCEI, contact:

SCRN Conference

SUSSEX CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK

Research for the future.

!!DIARY DATE!!

SCRN CONFERENCE
15TH SEPTEMBER 2010
BRIGHTON & SUSSEX MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Sussex Cancer Research Network conference is on 15th September 2010 at the Brighton & Sussex Medical School.

This event will have presentations from local providers, research units, consumers and from the National Cancer Research Network.

CPD accreditation is pending but please put this date in your diary.

Attendance is free, however, a charge will be made for non-attendance.

For further information or if you would like to display a poster, please contact jane.peterson@bsuh.nhs.uk or call 01273 696955 ext 4554

SUSSEX CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK

Phone: 01273 339074
Fax: 01273 545458
E-mail: jane.hanson@bsuh.nhs.uk

Clinical Trial for Skin Cancer Patients



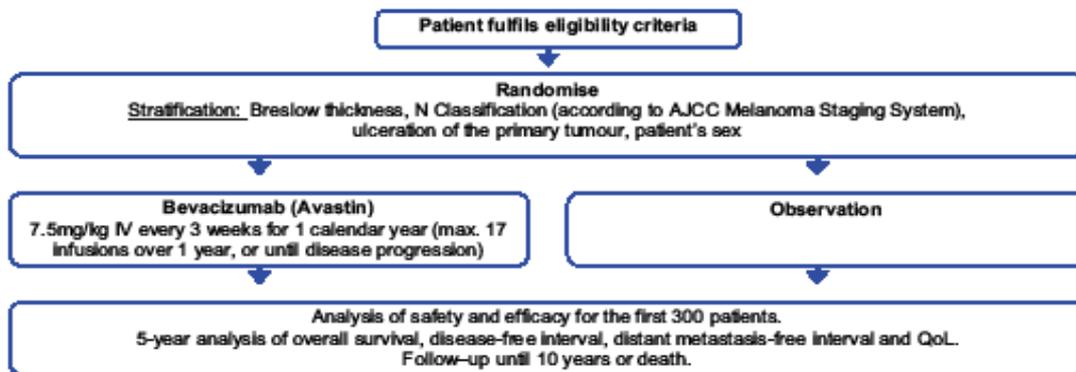
A randomised trial evaluating the VEGF inhibitor, Bevacizumab (Avastin®), as adjuvant therapy following resection of AJCC stage IIB (T3bN0M0 & T4aN0M0), IIC (T4bN0M0) and III (TxN1-3M0) cutaneous melanoma

Background

Many randomised trials of adjuvant therapy have been performed in patients after resection of melanoma, but to date, no treatment has convincingly improved overall survival. Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is the most important pro-angiogenic factor. Based on preclinical studies VEGF is a relevant target in melanoma – immunohistochemical studies suggest expression by around 2/3 of primary melanomas and level of expression correlates with disease progression. Bevacizumab (Avastin®, F. Hoffman-La Roche Ltd) is a recombinant humanized monoclonal antibody to VEGF. A series of small phase II studies in advanced disease suggest bevacizumab has activity in melanoma. However, mechanistically, this drug is probably likely to be most effective in the the adjuvant setting.

AVAST-M Trial Design

The UK AVAST-M Phase III multi-centre prospective clinical trial randomises melanoma patients at high risk of recurrence to receive bevacizumab, administered for 1 year, or to standard observation. Overall survival will be compared in 1320 patients, to identify an 8% difference in overall survival at 5 years (80% power, 5% significance) as the primary end point.



Trial Objectives

Primary Objective: Overall survival
Secondary Objectives: Disease free interval
 Distant metastasis-free interval
 Safety and toxicity
 Quality of life
Tertiary Objective: Identification of markers of angiogenesis in peripheral blood and tissue

Main Trial Assessments

- CT/MRI scans of head, chest, abdomen and pelvis (baseline only & subsequently if clinically indicated).
- Chest X-rays
- Protein urinalysis
- Haematology & clinical chemistry tests
- Quality of life EORTC QLQC30 questionnaire
- Blood and tissue for biomarker studies

Trial Population

Main Inclusion Criteria:

- Patients with histological confirmation of completely resected AJCC stage IIB (T3bN0M0 & T4aN0M0), IIC (T4bN0M0) and III (TxN1-3M0) cutaneous melanoma
- Patients must be randomised within 12 weeks of completing latest surgery for melanoma (i.e. wide local excision or lymphadenectomy)
- Blood pressure systolic ≤ 150 and diastolic ≤ 100 mmHg

Main Exclusion Criteria:

- Any evidence of distant or non-regional lymph node metastases
- Evidence of CNS metastases, even if previously treated
- Incomplete surgical resection of the disease
- Prior chemotherapy, immunotherapy or hormonal therapy for melanoma within 12 weeks of randomisation
- History or evidence of any disorder with increased risk of bleeding

AVAST-M Trial contact information: The Sussex Cancer Research Network team have been actively recruiting patients into this study since 2009. Further information about this study conducted locally in Brighton can be obtained from the research nurse and/or Dr. Sarah Westwell who is the lead for the trial at Brighton. Eligible patients are referred from hospital sites in the Sussex Cancer Network to Dr. Westwell for consideration of this trial.

Jane Dexter – Research Nurse, Sussex Cancer Centre, Brighton. 01273 696955 Ext 4333
 Sarah Westwell, Consultant Oncologist, Sussex Cancer Centre, Brighton. 01273 696955 Ext 4331

Macmillan News

Warm up for the World's Biggest Coffee Morning with M&S Cafe

This year's World's Biggest Coffee Morning takes place on Friday 24 September, however you can help raise money throughout August and September simply by popping in to your local M&S Cafe – the new Official Partner of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.



Macmillan Cancer Support appoints new Chair

After nine years as Chairman of Macmillan Cancer Support, Jamie Dundas will be stepping down and handing over to his successor after the charity's AGM on 29 July. The Board of Macmillan Cancer Support is delighted to announce today that the new Chair will be Julia Palca.

Take The Simple Challenge & Support Macmillan

Simple, the UK's No. 1 Facial Skincare brand, has teamed with Macmillan Cancer Support, the UK's most loved charity brand, to raise £50,000 to help improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

Cancer Voices Conference 2010

This year's conference will be held on the 15-16th October at the Hilton London Gatwick Hotel. Full details will be available on the website from the end of July.

The Cancer Support Course

The Cancer Support Course, accredited by the Open College Network, was developed in order to offer training to people supporting others affected by cancer. The programme is targeted at people affected by cancer offering support to others in self help and support groups, volunteers and staff in information centres, in carer schemes and other cancer organisations. We aim to attract a good mix of volunteers and professionals on each course in order to enhance the shared and experiential learning experience. The course is accredited by the Open College Network, is based on national standards of best practice equivalent to a level two qualification and continually monitored and reviewed internally and externally. The course is made up of five units and on the completion of each unit learners will be awarded credits on the completion of a portfolio including a learning journal. The units we are running at present are;

Communication – Counselling – Loss and Bereavement Cancer Awareness – Health and Wellbeing

Learners attending the programme are asked to attend four days teaching for each unit which are delivered at two days a month. Three days focus on course content and the fourth looks at what the learners need to do to complete their portfolios.

The learners are given one month to complete the relevant portfolio and in addition to the portfolio learners are asked to complete a 'Learning Journal'. Each learner receives a lot of support and encouragement from their trainers and course coordinator, to keep their motivation and enthusiasm high throughout.

The course is free and learners are only asked to fund their own travelling expenses and lunch.

We will be hosting an information day on the Cancer Support Course and would like to invite you. If you would like to come along and find out more then please note the details outlined below:-

Date: Information session Friday 9 July 2010 **Venue:** Macmillan Cancer Support UK Office
89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UQ **Tel:** 0207 840 7840
Time: 2.00pm – 4.30pm (Refreshments will be provided)

This is not a 'drop in' session and to get the full benefit of the information day we recommend you arrive ready to commence at **2.00pm**. Macmillan Cancer Support hope you are able to attend the Cancer Support Course Information session. If you have any queries or concerns before then please do not hesitate to contact Shelley Gurney, CSC course coordinator on 07791351923 or email shelleygurney@hotmail.com.

If you are unable to attend the information session but would still like information please contact Shelley Gurney on the contact details above or alternatively Chele Lawrence on 01245 290664 or email

clawrence@macmillan.org.uk

National News

The new Government has set out clearly the focus of its policy on health. There are five clear priorities.

- ◆ **a patient-led NHS:** strengthening patients' choice and management of their own care, and ensuring they have a voice in the NHS
- ◆ **delivering better health outcomes:** shifting focus and resources towards better health outcomes, including national health outcome measures, patient-reported outcomes, and patient experience measures
- ◆ **a more autonomous and accountable system:** creating a long-term sustainable framework of institutions for the NHS, with greater autonomy from political interference and greater accountability to patients and the public, focused on outcomes
- ◆ **improved public health through a new public health delivery system:** promoting better public health for the nation by focusing on public health
- ◆ **a focus on reforming long-term care:** improving accessibility and options for long-term and social care by focusing on prevention, personalisation and partnership delivery.

A White Paper is due to be published next month, which will set out the plans around the first three areas, with subsequent White Papers covering the fourth and fifth ones.

Revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11

A revision to the Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010/11 has been published setting out a number of areas that are subject to immediate change. These reflect the government's ambition to move towards a health service that puts patients at the heart of decision-making, focuses on quality and outcomes - not processes, and has more devolved responsibilities.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_110107

National Cancer Patients' Experience Survey 2010

The National Cancer Patients' Experience Survey 2010 has been sent to patients across trusts in England. A supplier is working with Trusts to arrange patient data samples and sending questionnaires to adult in-patients and day patients discharged between January and the end of March 2010.

Final sampling guidance and the questionnaire being sent to cancer patients can be accessed via this link: <http://www.quality-health.co.uk/2010cancersurvey.html>

Results of the survey are currently scheduled to be published in the Autumn.

Update of the National Cancer Information Service (NCIS)

The National Cancer Information System (NCIS) is an online tool that gives access to cancer incidence, mortality and survival data. It allows detailed breakdowns of these data by age, sex and cancer type, both over time and as standardised rates. Local organisations can be compared to national data, and to other Government Office Regions, Local Authorities, Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts and Cancer Networks.

The NCIS has recently been updated to cover the whole of the UK, sourcing data from the eight English cancer registries plus those of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Data is currently available to the end of 2007 for cancer incidence and survival, and to the end of 2008 for mortality. Further information and access to the system can be found at:

<http://www.ncin.org.uk/analysis/ncis.shtml>

GLOBOCAN 2008

The International Association for Research on Cancer (IARC) have launched GLOBOCAN 2008 with estimates of cancer incidence and mortality for nearly every country for 27 cancer sites.

For more information visit: <http://globocan.iarc.fr/>

SCN Management Update

by Caroline Huff, SCN Deputy Director

A sub-Group of the Partnership Group (Margaret Ticehurst, Angie Towner, Pauline Carter, Della Lamden and Gill Hilton) met on 21/06/2010 to discuss in more detail and agree the actions needed for the Group's 2010/11 work plan on "Living with and Beyond Cancer"

- ⇒ **The SCN website:** This is being transferred to a new format to enable a search facility to be used. Arnold Goldman has been helping with the development. In addition, the sub-Group agreed to review the new website when it is up and running and ask for others who are not familiar with cancer for their feedback. The Group felt that sections accessed by the public should be colourful and have pictures to make it appealing. The SCN should build on the Partnership Group's definitions list and ensure this is included. The Partnership Group meetings timetable was found to be very useful and needed to be easily found. The sub-group will focus, in the first instance on reviewing the SCN Cancer Services Directory and the SCN Partnership Group sections.
- ⇒ **SCN Patient Experience survey:** All Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) are currently implementing the SCN Treatment (surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy). So far 324 radiotherapy, 133 chemotherapy and 243 surgical surveys have been returned. By 2011, a sustainable process for MDTs to receive regular feed back needs to be put in place. The sub Group felt that targeting a few important questions, available on the SCN website and offered by members of the MDT as a written survey, emailed or details given of the SCN website, should be piloted. The questions could change as issues were identified but to focus initially on the results from the first survey of areas where patients were often not receiving optimum support or information. The questions chosen were about: information about free NHS prescriptions, contact information given about out-of-hours support, being advised to bring someone with you to the appointment when you were told your diagnosis, being offered the details of a key person (nurse/doctor/ other) that you could contact to ask any questions, being given the opportunity to have a written summary/Consultants letter to your GP or recording of significant consultations and being offered generic information such as details of support groups/finances/complementary therapy/diet. A final open question could be included on suggestions for improving cancer services.
- ⇒ **Prescription Exemption:** To find out what information patients are offered on the national/local patient information pathways
- ⇒ **Individualised care plans/preferred place of care:** To discuss in more detail after Sarah Doffman (BSUH Lung MDT Lead for the survivorship project) visits the Partnership Group meeting later in the year. Breast piloted an end of treatment conference for patients with information on side effects, support, managing symptoms, being aware of symptoms which may suggest a reoccurrence. The Partnership Group members of the Breast Tumour Group will review how the roll out of the pilot is progressing.
- ⇒ **Talking to Professionals about what having cancer feels like:** Continue to present at Conferences and on the Brighton University post-graduate cancer course sharing that experience with professionals. Support the roll out of an assessment tool which highlights psychological needs as well as physical needs.

Other news

- ⇒ **Local Sarcoma Diagnostic Clinic:** We are imminently expecting the start-up date for this clinic starting in Brighton.
- ⇒ The Cancer Action Groups are developing their **Complementary Therapy Registers** of therapists on NHS premises or included in the patient information of the Multi-Disciplinary Teams, Radiotherapy or Chemotherapy Departments.
- ⇒ The 4 PCTs are reviewing **access to lymphoedema** and have supported a review of current access to services.
- ⇒ The National Cancer Action Team has visited the SHA to review progress on the **NICE Supportive and Palliative Care Guidance**; particular gaps in delivery include rehabilitation, psychological support and Specialist Palliative Care.
- ⇒ All hospital Trusts are setting up groups to look at how they should set up an **Acute Oncology Service**. This is a team (including oncologists, medical team, specialist palliative care team) who will review patients with cancer or suspected cancer admitted as an emergency and set up a 24-hour telephone help-line. Carolyn Morris and Gill Hilton are members of the SCN Acute Oncology Steering Group who will co-ordinate the Trust plans, ready for the SCN Executive Board in September.

SCN Management Update – continued

- ⇒ **NHS West Sussex Radiotherapy Steering Group and Patient Reference Group** have met and are planning “listening” exercises in the 3 radiotherapy departments. Further details will be shared at the Partnership Group meeting but these exercises will be run in a similar way to the chemotherapy “listening” exercise to widen the pool of knowledge about the issues which are important for users of the services. The PCT are hoping to develop a brief proposal for additional radiotherapy services in July.
- ⇒ Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trusts have appointed a project manager to support the completion of the business case for the **second radiotherapy centre at Eastbourne**.
- ⇒ The SCN are re-advertising the **Macmillan Lead Allied Health Professional** next month.
- ⇒ **Peer Review training** was held on 14th June. Thank you all those who attended. If any members are interested in becoming involved in peer review and would like a personal training session, we would be more than happy to provide that for you
- ⇒ **The SCN Annual Report** is nearing completion and will be available shortly on the SCN website. Please let us know if you would like a printed copy
- ⇒ Thank you to the **new patient/carer members** on the SCN Groups
- ⇒ On 28th June Macmillan launched their appeal to raise funds for building the **New Sussex Cancer Centre Information and Support Centre**. The Sussex Cancer Fund and BSUH have already set aside £2 million, with over £3 million still to be collected. Plans will be completed in October 2010, with the 12-month building project starting at the end of 2011. Margaret Ticehurst is a member of the steering group.

Staff changes

Amanda Savill has left the SCN and has started a new job in administration at the Hove Polyclinic. Amanda provided administration support to the SCN Partnership Group for a number of years and we wish her well in her new role.



Striking a balance: what matters most in general practice?



Striking a balance

General practice has been the cornerstone of the NHS since its birth in 1948 and is central in providing patients with high-quality health care. UK general practice is internationally renowned as the foundation of the most cost-effective form of health care delivery in the developed world and is highly valued by patients.

Despite these considerable achievements, general practice is facing a number of challenges. Like the rest of the NHS, it is undergoing rapid change caused by an increasing demand for services, rising expectations, evolving practice structures and changes in government policy. The health service's capacity is finite. Competing expectations and the current economic climate are likely to force the nation to make some difficult decisions over the coming years about its priorities for general practice.

The BMA's General Practitioners Committee is seeking the views of the public, the professions, patient groups and health charities on four key issues facing general practice and patients:

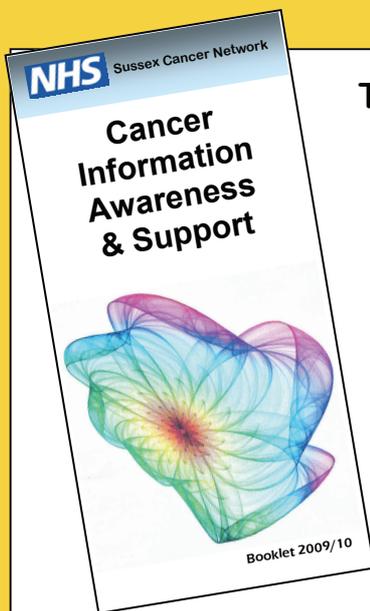
- the evolving practice team <> getting a suitable appointment**
- > care and treatment outside normal working hours <**
- > continuity in general practice and coordination of care in the modern NHS <**

We look forward to hearing your responses to any or all of these questions, along with any other ideas you have for ensuring that general practice remains fit for the future. The consultation closes 10th September.

Go to: www.strikingabalance.org.uk or contact Mandy Lynch on 01273 545448 for details

Re-design of the Sussex Cancer Network Website

We are reviewing the look and layout of the SCN website. The main reason for the change is that the current format does not enable a proper search function for the public or staff, which means that sometimes items of interest cannot be found quickly and easily. We will be holding regular website re-design meetings and we would welcome your involvement. In the first instance we have several design templates that we would like your opinion on which one you feel has the best layout. Please contact amanda.lynch@scn.nhs.uk if you would be interested in being involved in the new website design.



The new “**Cancer Information Awareness & Support**” booklet is now available and being distributed around the Sussex Cancer Network.

This 32 page book contains cancer information with awareness symptoms listed for 21 different cancers, alongside contact details for support groups and National organisations offering help and advice.

More detailed information on support groups can be found on the website: www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk
For copies of the booklet contact:
Mandy Lynch on 01273 545448

Help us to help others

If you are a patient or carer reading this newsletter for the first time and would like to help improve cancer services in Sussex, then why not join the **Partnership Group** and get involved.

We need more cancer patients and carers who wish to have a say in local cancer services.

If you feel your experience - good or bad - could benefit others, we would love to hear from you.

Phone 01273 545448 or just come along to one of our meetings - the dates are on page 3.

www.sussexcancer.nhs.uk

