

London Cancer Psychosocial Expert Reference Group Annual Report 2016-17

Introduction

London Cancer is the integrated cancer provider system formed in 2012 to cover the geographical areas of North Central and East London and West Essex, population of 3.7 million.

London Cancer was embedded within the newly formed UCLH Cancer Collaborative in September 2016, as one of six key work programmes.

London Cancer includes Tumour Pathway Boards and Expert Reference Groups led by a Clinical Director. The purpose of the Psychosocial Expert Reference Group is to be the primary source of clinical advice for psychosocial issues to Tumour Pathway Boards, other Expert Reference Groups and the UCLH Cancer Collaborative Board which includes commissioning representation.



The ERG's membership includes multi-disciplinary representation from cancer professionals across the region and active participation from primary care and from patients. The ERG has a duty to promote equality of access, choice and quality of care for all patients within *London Cancer*, irrespective of their individual circumstances. The ERG also works with cancer commissioners to provide expert opinion on the design of any commissioning pathways, metrics and specifications.

As in previous years, the ERG has delivered on a range of developments to enhance psychological support across the Collaborative.

Achievements this year

2016/17 has seen the Psychosocial Expert Reference Group become part of the newly formed UCLH Cancer Collaborative. The emphasis on cooperative working has extended beyond the Integrated Cancer System to include work with a range of partner organisations: Macmillan, TCST, RM partners and South East London Cancer Alliance. This on-going collaboration is particularly focussed on the development of a much needed pan-London pathway and service specification for psychological care.

Key achievements over the year have included:

- Leading and collaborating in the production of educational videos focussed on enhancing support to carers and the children of cancer patients.
- Taking a leading role in establishing a bid and securing funding to support the development of a pan-London pathway for psychological care.
- Producing a full revision of mandated Level 2 training for the CNS workforce.
- Through support from Macmillan, providing CPD to psychological specialists working across the Collaborative

Patient representation

The Psychosocial ERG continues to benefit from the knowledge and guidance provided through patient representation. This collaboration has underpinned both the planning and implementation of the workstreams.

Future plans

In 2017/18 we will build on past and current projects:

No	Objective	Owner	By
1	Ensure that quality improvements are quantified and reported to allow for replication beyond the Collaborative	Caroline Dancyger	Jun 2018
2	Reduce inequalities through the production of multilingual versions of the 2017 video promoting better communication with children affected by cancer.	Peter Southern	Jun 2018
3	Improve training and support for CNSs by extending the depth and breadth of 'Level 2' CPD	Heather Munro	Feb 2018
4	Promote and support the implementation of the pan-London Psychological Care Pathway	Mark Barrington	End of 2018

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all the members of the Psychosocial ERG and Forum for contributing their time to improving the quality of care within the collaborative. In particular, we are grateful to our patient representative, Daphne Earl, who has generously shared her time and invaluable insights.

The successes of the 2016/17 workstreams are attributable to the hard work of the project teams and in particular, their leads: Heather Munro, Peter Southern and Elaine Heywood.