

We are the Macmillan Information and Support Service normally based on the Greenlea Oncology Unit at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and at the Jayne Garforth Macmillan Unit at Calderdale Royal Hospital. We're here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing practical, financial and emotional support. So whatever cancer throws your way, we're right there with you.

Due to the coronavirus situation we are currently working from home, but want you to know that we are still very much here to support you by phone and email.

We also now run the Trust's Cancer Support Line and can be contacted at:



Email: cancer.information@nhs.net

ISOLATION LETTERS & SHOPPING HELP

Many patients have been in touch with our service to say that they have not yet received a letter from the Government or NHS to say they should isolate for 12 weeks due to the coronavirus. If you have received cancer treatment in the last eight weeks and have not received an isolation letter – please contact us on the above numbers and we will work with your clinical team to issue a letter for you. If you are unsure whether or not you should be isolating – please contact us and again we will liaise with your clinical team for individual advice.

Once you have received an isolation letter, you can register as extremely vulnerable with the government and local councils. If on the government registration you say that you have nobody to help with shopping, you will temporarily receive a food parcel from the government. Government registration also means your name will go on a priority list for booking grocery delivery slots with the likes of Asda/Tesco/Sainsbury's/Morrisons.

You can also register with the local council and ask for a volunteer to help with shopping/collecting prescriptions/dog walking etc. Below are the links or phone numbers you need:

- Register directly with the government for support and complete this online form <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>
- Also register with your local council:
For Calderdale residents – phone 01422 392890 or follow this link - <https://calderdale.gov.uk/v2/coronavirus/community-support/request-support>

For Kirklees residents - phone 01484 226919 or follow this link - <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3EQI47AbxXd7cv-vcLgkabjr7yhSfPzb2ofX3110dGhRydg/viewform>

IF YOU DEVELOP CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS



If you become less well and **have had any cancer treatment within the last 8 weeks**, it's very important that you ring the Oncology Helpline, not NHS 111, even if you think your symptoms are most likely to be coronavirus infection. Our **Oncology Helpline** is still available 24 hours every day: **01422 222999**

If you have **NOT** had any cancer treatment for more than 8 weeks, and think your symptoms are coronavirus, it is ok for you to contact NHS 111 online instead.

**YOU DON'T
HAVE TO FACE
CANCER ALONE
WE CAN
GIVE YOU A
HELPING HAND**

VOLUNTEER TELEPHONE SUPPORT

Our fabulous team of volunteers are currently phoning patients for a chat and to see how they are coping in isolation. The volunteer team have availability and would like to be in touch with more patients, so if you would benefit from a weekly or fortnightly call from them, please do get in touch – it would be their pleasure to support you.

VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUPS IN MAY 2020

In April we ran two virtual support groups over Microsoft Teams and patients and family members were able to come together, support one another and share tips for managing their time in isolation. In May we are also introducing our singing group online, as well as the coffee group, so why not think about joining us?

- **Virtual Macmillan Coffee Support Group – Wednesday 13th May, 2pm til 3pm and Wednesday 27th May, 2pm til 3pm.**
- **Virtual Macmillan Singing Group – Wednesday 20th May, 2pm til 3pm.**



If you would like to join these support groups, please contact us on 01484 343614 or 01422 222709 or email us at cancer.information@nhs.net and we will send you an invite to the meeting and instructions on how to download and use Microsoft Teams.

We are also looking at ways to run our **walking group** virtually – please watch this space for further developments.

Firm Roots is also running virtual cancer prayer support groups via zoom on Thursday 7th May and Thursday 4th June, 7pm til 7.55pm (to finish in time for Clap for Carers). If you would like to join the meeting or have any prayer requests at this time, please contact Helen.Jones@firmroots.co.uk or phone 01484 343614.

VIDEO CALLS



We are now set up to offer video calls with patients and family members who would prefer a face to face chat via a video call, rather than a telephone call. If you would like to be in touch in this way, please contact us and we will send you an invite and instructions.

NEW STAFF MEMBER

Thank you to everyone who sent comments last year when we were gathering evidence about our need for an additional staff member. We have successfully appointed to a new role of Macmillan Information Service Support Worker and look forward to Holly Smith joining us, hopefully in June. Holly will be on secondment from her position in the Trust's Therapies team and will be working with us for a 12 month period.

WELCOME!

Sending our best wishes from the Macmillan Cancer Information & Support Service
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, Greenlea Unit, HRI and Jayne Garforth
Unit, CRH. Tel: HRI - 01484 343614; CRH - 01422 222709
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