Psychological Care

We know that 100,000 people with cancer (around 1 in 4) have high level psychological care needs and that these needs are met more poorly than clinical needs. Macmillan's focus in psychological care is to invest strategically in clinical leadership roles and provide psychological care delivery roles to create capacity across strategic footprints. Over the past 10 years, Macmillan's funded 140 psychologists posts at around £10m on contracts which are now largely sustained.
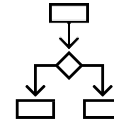
UK Partnerships input includes:

Investments – around £5m in budget for the first cohort of psychological care sites for people with cancer

Influencing – building evidence bases and influencing strategies to prioritise psychological care across Scotland, Wales and NI

Engagement – working to embed mental health assessment across mental health and cancer pathways, across strategic footprints

Learning support – through the Mental Health Foundation plus Professional Development & Knowledge, creating bespoke offers and communities of practice to learn/share

Outcomes for people with cancer

Increased ability to cope with living with cancer

Reduced inequity so everyone has their psychological care needs assessed

Improved self-management and people feel supported to make informed decisions around treatment

Enhanced multi-disciplinary team working with psychological needs considered in the approach

Our drivers in this space:

Investment – both delivery and leadership focusses to achieve transformational change

Influencing – joining up an influencing strategy across the 4 nations

Evaluation and monitoring – bringing together insight and data to demonstrate the change achieved and catalyse further investment

Integration – working alongside BUPA to support people with cancer access support and help

Wider view of reporting in this workstream:

Reporting due to launch in Q1 2024 based on the first cohort of sites

Evaluation framework also in place with first report expected in 2024

Project monitoring and insight also possible through combination of updates, locality snapshots and action trackers