

# IMPROVING CANCER CARE ACTION GROUP

## Who are we?

ICCAG consists of patients, carers, family members, representatives of local community support groups and health care professionals, and was formed in May 2012. As many tumour types as possible are represented within the group.

This group meets regularly on the second Wednesday of every month with health professionals to discuss any issue which affects patients, carers or their families.

By bringing our experience of cancer and its related problems e.g. physical, psychological, financial, we can assist Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (ASPH) to make improvements to the care of cancer patients.

We are not a support group, but we can signpost people to sources of information and help.

## What is our aim?

- To support, develop and promote improved cancer services at ASPH
- To identify specific opportunities for improvement and make recommendations to, and work with, the relevant health providers and professionals
- To be a source of expert advice to the ASPH cancer services team, helping them to achieve excellence for people with cancer

- To obtain feedback from service users and identify areas of concern to highlight to those in the Trust
- To provide patient representation to serve as members on ASPH's committees and working groups
- To improve communication between cancer patients, carers and health professionals
- To be an expert patient voice in the development of new initiatives

## What have we achieved?

- Sourced and facilitated provision of a dedicated resource room for cancer information at St. Peter's
- Achieved the implementation of green bracelets to ensure that medical staff are aware of any patient who has had a lymph node procedure
- Commented on the Annual National Cancer Patient Experience Survey and supported the development of the ASPH improvement action plan
- Provided recommendations to hospital and GP staff about how to support those being referred for tests and those receiving a cancer diagnosis
- Regular attendance at key ASPH Cancer Service Forums, including Cancer Board meetings and Chemotherapy Closer to Home Service Implementation Group meetings; group members have also been invited to share their experiences with the Chief Executive and Hospital Board
- Provided inputs into research and reports from Macmillan Cancer Support
- Held Trust Members Events showcasing Cancer Services

We recognise on-going engagement from the Trust's senior Executive team for our work.

### ***A message from the Chief Executive***

At Ashford and St. Peter's putting patients first is the first of our four values. We are particularly grateful for the support of the Improving Cancer Care Action Group, who are working with us to make sure we make the right improvements on behalf of patients accessing our cancer services and their families/carers. The group's support and inspirational ideas are invaluable in helping us put patients first.

*Suzanne Rankin, Chief Executive*

If you are interested in joining this influential group and helping to improve the care of those affected by cancer, please join us at a forthcoming meeting, and contact:

**Pat Morrison (Chair) or Sue Dargan (Macmillan Lead Nurse)**  
c/o Debbie Stonell Email [Debbie.stonell@nhs.net](mailto:Debbie.stonell@nhs.net)  
**Telephone: 01932 726468**

Meetings held 6-8pm, second Wednesday of every month,  
Chertsey House, St. Peter's Hospital.

St. Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0PZ.



## IMPROVING CANCER CARE ACTION GROUP ICCAG

*Working together to help improve  
the care of those affected by cancer  
at Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals*