

Mount Vernon Cancer Network

Partnerships Working in Partnership with East and North Herts NHS Trust, West Herts NHS Trust, Luton and Dunstable NHS Trust and Luton Community Services, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre., Mt Vernon Cancer Network Education Group.

Services to be offered This pilot project involves the development of a vocational rehabilitation champion' who will lead on education and awareness regarding the vocational rehabilitation needs and approaches to support. Specifically its aims include:

- To raise the profile of vocational rehabilitation within Mt Vernon Cancer Network and provide education to health professionals working in cancer care. This will be achieved through joint working with the Mt Vernon Cancer Network Education Group. (Levels 1 and 2 of the model).
- To work alongside Patient Information Teams within Mt Vernon Cancer Network in promoting awareness among both people with cancer and health professionals of existing government services aimed at supporting people in returning to work. (Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the model).
- To offer direct assistance to people with cancer who are experiencing significant difficulties with returning to work. This may involve working with both the individual and their employer in supporting a graded return to work and offering advice regarding practical, legal and financial issues. (Level 3 and 4 of the model). Where appropriate, the vocational rehabilitation service will work in tandem with existing self management programs within the Network including the Living with Cancer and Head and Neck End of Treatment Programs.
- To act as a conduit for onward referrals to psychological support, rehabilitation and welfare rights services (and programs) where client's specific needs are compromising their ability to successfully participate in valued vocational roles. (Level 4 of the model).

Key features Anecdotal evidence points to the vocational rehabilitation needs of people with cancer being largely overlooked by health professionals across the Network. This project will aim to address this situation through the coordinated provision of information and education to health professionals. It will therefore aim to improve:

- Greater empathy regarding the vocational rehabilitation needs of people with cancer
- More effective screening and assessment
- Appropriate advice giving, sign posting and referrals
- Joint working (and learning) with existing vocational rehabilitation providers for individuals with particularly complex needs.

It is anticipated that these changes will represent a significant change to the current level and quality of service provision for this very important element of the patient pathway.

Pilot contacts

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