

21/08/2019

Re: Macmillan Social Prescribing Service – service closure

As you previously received support from the Macmillan Social Prescribing team, we are writing to inform you of the closure of this service.

Macmillan Cancer Support has funded the Macmillan Social Prescribing service at the Bromley by Bow Centre since 2015 as a pilot, with the objective of the service securing longer term funding from other sources (e.g. NHS or Local Authorities). Despite our best efforts, the Bromley by Bow Centre, supported by Macmillan, has been unable to secure this continuation funding. Therefore, unfortunately the service will cease to operate on 27th September 2019. We know from some feedback we've received already that this might be disappointing news to hear.

Macmillan Cancer Support do however have a number of support services that still remain available to you. This includes the Macmillan Information and Support Services at local hospitals, the Macmillan Support Line (0808 808 00 00 open 7 days a week 8am-8pm) and the Macmillan Welfare Benefits Service delivered by Toynbee Hall. Alongside this letter we have enclosed a list of alternative services available both locally and via national helplines/websites. We hope this document is helpful for you. We would also encourage you to call your GP or your allocated Clinical Nurse Specialist if you have questions about your treatment and side effects or concerns about how you are coping mentally and emotionally.

During the last 4 years of delivery the service has provided one-to-one support to over 2,000 people living with and beyond cancer in Tower Hamlets, City & Hackney, Newham and Waltham Forest. The team has connected clients to more than 400 different services and activities. The service has also been shown to have had a significant impact on the wellbeing, concerns and anxiety of people living with and beyond cancer.

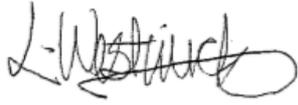
Further findings from our evaluations are available on our website – www.bbhc.org.uk/macmillan (our new evaluation report will be uploaded here in the coming weeks). We hope these findings will enable other services and the NHS to learn from the Macmillan Social Prescribing service so future services are designed to best support people affected by cancer.

The Bromley by Bow Centre remains committed to supporting people in East London. Delivering community based support for people with long term conditions, including cancer, remains a focus of our plans for the future and the organisation continues to work hard to secure funding for these services. To stay informed about services available at the Centre please sign up to the Centre's e-newsletter here - <http://bit.ly/BBHCNewsletter>

If you have any questions regarding this process please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like to know more about Macmillan Cancer Support's work in East London please contact Donal Gallagher, DGallagher@macmillan.org.uk, 07834 192249.

We hope the service has been helpful for you and we wish you well for the future.

Yours sincerely,



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Macmillan Social Prescribing Service Manager
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