

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 2021 ELECTION MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT MANIFESTO CALLS

CALL 1 - THE SCOTTISH CANCER RECOVERY PLAN 2020-23 SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IN FULL

- Macmillan Cancer Support want to see *Recovery and Redesign: An Action Plan for Cancer Services* implemented in full, with the workforce that is required in place to support it.
- The plan commits to implementing the Transforming Cancer Care programme, which is jointly funded by the Scottish Government and Macmillan Cancer Support.
- This partnership will make Scotland the first country in the UK where all cancer patients will have access to a key support worker to receive dedicated financial, practical and emotional support.
- **The roll out of this programme must be prioritised to ensure all cancer patients have access to the personalised care and support they need**, particularly as we know many people will have been diagnosed later due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and their needs will be even greater than normal.
 - One in three people with cancer in Scotland (32%) are severely financially impacted by their diagnosis, as having cancer can bring all sorts of financial pressures, such as loss of income due to being off work, increased household bills and travel to and from hospital appointments for treatment.
 - Therefore, in order to tackle cancer poverty, improve health and reduce inequalities, everyone who receives a cancer diagnosis should **automatically be signposted to high quality income maximisation advice throughout all Health and Social Care Partnerships**
- The Recovery Plan also commits to a third **Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES)**: “*With Macmillan Cancer Support, we will develop and deliver the third Scottish Cancer Patient Experience Survey, benefitting from benchmarking against previous surveys to further understand COVID-19 impacts on cancer patients.*” The commitment to regular CPES surveys is one way of ensuring that people with lived experience of the Scottish cancer care system have their voices heard by decision makers.

CALL 2 - A NEW PEOLC STRATEGY

- The Scottish Government should establish a **new palliative and end of life care strategy or plan to succeed the existing PEOLC strategy in 2021.**
- The impact of delays to treatment and diagnoses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic means we will see increased numbers of people who will have their cancer diagnosed later, which can impact on their overall prognosis and survival.
- There has been a shift of almost 50% more cancer patients dying at home during the pandemic, and there must be a renewed focus to ensure **the health system is equipped and prepared with the resources required to meet the changing needs of people at end of life.**

CALL 3 - HEALTH COMMITTEE SHOULD INVESTIGATE CANCER IN SCOTLAND

- *Recovery and Redesign: An Action Plan for Cancer Services* sets out the direction for cancer services until 2023. The **Scottish Parliament Health Committee should undertake an Inquiry** to help inform what comes next for cancer services by considering what progress has been made through recent Scottish Government cancer plans.
- An inquiry also provides the opportunity to examine the true extent and **impact of the backlog in cancer diagnosis and care caused by the cancellation and delays of vital appointments, surgeries and treatments during COVID-19 pandemic.**