

Appendix 4 Cancer Service Users Views

Cancer Voices and Can Survive User Groups Meeting

5th September 2018

Third Sector Training Room

Burns House

Stranraer

Briefing note:

On the outcome of discussions regarding the proposal to build a “Maggie’s Centre” in Dumfries.

The proposal was outlined by Alexandra Little, Strategic Planning Manager, as articulated in the written proposal by Sarah Beard, Business Development Director, Maggie’s; i.e.

- Build on the site of DGRI (currently the only expansion site for the hospital which will be in operation for 60-70 years; presently operational for 10 months)
- Adult cancer support (counselling, information, support and advice) only – not for children or for other long term conditions – this may be considered once “up and running” in around 5 years
- No beds – Maggie’s is not a hospice
- No treatment e.g. radiotherapy – Maggie’s is not a cancer treatment centre
- £3-5 million to build – drawn from local fundraising with £250K capital contribution from NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- £250 approximately to run – drawn from local fundraising with £80K approximately for 20 years from NHS Dumfries and Galloway

The groups considered the following:

- Travel to a service that should ideally be delivered in communities and not in an acute setting
- Equity of access to services for people with cancer across the region
- Costs and where the NHS funding would come from e.g. other services being reduced/endowments
- If there is funding available, would this be better used to expand/improve or relocate the current Macmillan Centre at the GCH or used to deliver services in the communities where people live?
- The need for people with other LTCs to have access to good advice, information and support
- What would the additionality of a Maggie’s Centre bring to Dumfries and Galloway?

- Other models such “The Haven” model for all LTC, run by volunteers in existing estate in local communities; “mini-Maggie’s” or “mobile- Maggie’s”
- The presentation by Maggie’s at Area Clinical Forum, in which a desire to work collaboratively with NHS was proposed; although still based on a building at DGRI

The groups concluded that:

- They would not support the proposal to build a Maggie’s Centre in Dumfries or indeed in Stranraer
- They would like to see improvements made to the Macmillan Centre in Stranraer and more community based “outreach work”
- There are concerns about equity of provision of services across the region
- There are concerns that people who suffer from other long term conditions such as motor neuron disease do not have equitable access to support services
- Attendees who had used Maggie’s Centres in Central Belt had found the experience supportive/helpful; but noted that they had used these centres whilst attending major hospitals for treatment. They would not have travelled to Central Belt to use Maggie’s alone

Attendees were drawn from the Cancer Voices Groups in Dumfries and Stranraer and the Can Survive Group. Representatives from Building Healthy Communities, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway and the Stranraer Cancer Drop in Centre were also present.