BACKGROUND

The changing nature of cancer and the increase in the number of people surviving cancer treatment, who will need ongoing care, highlights the need to better integrate cancer care across primary and community care to enable patients to receive continuous, co-ordinated care in the community.

The Welsh Government Cancer Delivery Plan to 2020 sets out its vision for services and outcomes for patients to match the best in Europe and emphasises a commitment to deliver the highest standard of care for everyone with cancer. It also recognises the challenges around detecting cancer earlier, delivering fast effective treatment and care, meeting the needs of people with cancer and improving cancer information.

The Macmillan Primary Care Cancer Framework Programme is a five-year programme that offers Wales an exciting opportunity to lead on an innovative and integrative approach to cancer in primary and community care. It will help health boards deliver the vision and commitment outlined in the Welsh Government's Cancer Delivery Plan.

The overarching strategic aim of the Programme is to support primary care professionals to diagnose, care and support people affected by cancer and to improve patient outcomes and experience by:

a) developing and supporting primary care professionals,

b) improving communication and integration of care between Primary and Secondary Care,

c) growing and developing a Community of Practice (COP) to support cancer service improvement in Wales.

The Programme aims to do this by developing clinical leadership in primary care through a Community of Practice and Influence principally through GPs, nurses and the wider community. The Programme team will work with GP Clusters, Health Boards and Velindre NHS Trust, Wales Cancer Network, Welsh Government and Macmillan Cancer Support, crucially identifying local needs for cancer patients and supporting cancer service improvements.

One of the outputs of the programme has been a website that will contain tools, resources and information on how primary care can manage and support people affected by cancer in their practice population.

The programme has already commenced the second phase of the Community of Practice and Influence development with the recruitment of Health Board Macmillan GP Facilitators across Wales who will be involved directly in a new project involving the development of a Macmillan Cancer Quality Toolkit for primary care. The Toolkit will support service improvement in primary care and build our understanding of Wales’ changing cancer story.

Health Board Macmillan GP Cancer Leads are also making significant progress in developing relationships and local projects across Wales. This
local work is being shared at a national level and will help inform the second phase of the programme.