Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2012-13 and Spending Review 2011

Macmillan Cancer Support

Macmillan Cancer Support strongly support priority being given to preventative spending as we think it improves the patient experience and also saves money in the long run.

We consider that improving co-ordination of care is vital to this end.

This will not be achieved without integration of health and social care.

The holistic needs of patients need to be addressed – including practical, financial and emotional.

Specialist nurses have a key role to play in co-ordinating care and therefore avoiding emergency incidents etc.

Access to benefits advice is also preventative in supporting cancer patients (and those with long term conditions) with their financial needs.

Care after treatment in Scotland needs to be transformed so that it can cope with the predicted doubling of people living with cancer.

There are 190,000 people living with cancer in Scotland – with many over 60 and this raises other issues such as support for carers and co-morbidities.

Below are the three Manifesto Asks Macmillan Cancer Support called for in the 2011 Scottish Parliament Election which we believe are all preventative spending measures.

1. Information, support and benefits advice as a routine part of the cancer journey

- Holistic and regular assessment of all support needs with specific planning for care and support beyond treatment
- Personalised care and support plan for everyone diagnosed with cancer, based on individual risks, needs and preferences
- Effective signposting to support services
- Better co-ordination of care and joining up services, driven by the needs of patients
- Improved understanding amongst all NHS staff working with cancer patients of the emotional, financial and practical impact of cancer and the services available to help
- Embed access to information, support and benefits advice in the NHS Quality Strategy.
2. Access to a Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialist for everyone diagnosed with cancer

- Better use of Cancer Clinical Nurse Specialists to deliver and co-ordinate care more effectively, including assessment and care planning for all cancer patients.
- Develop the clinical workforce to be better equipped to meet the needs of people living with cancer beyond treatment
- Involve the voluntary sector in the review of Clinical Nurse Specialists

3. Transform post-treatment care to meet the needs of people living with cancer

- Review and reform follow-up to make it more people-centred, efficient and cost-effective
- Include post-treatment care needs in assessment and care planning.
- Prioritise support for people and their families to manage their care after treatment, freeing up resources and capacity for the more complex cases
- Culture shift to focus on recovery, health and well-being after treatment, including support for people living with cancer to get back to work

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