

## Other sources of support

You could also call the confidential helpline run by **Macmillan Cancer Support** on **0808 808 0000**

Complementary therapies are available at the **Lilac Centre** at St Helens Hospital. To find out more call: **01744 646173**

After your treatment has ended, you may wish to ask your cancer nurse specialist about the self-management course run by Macmillan: **H.O.P.E. (Helping Overcome Problems Effectively)**, where cancer survivors meet to discuss ways to manage stress and build confidence.

Clinical Psychology Department

St Helens Hospital  
Marshall Cross Road,  
St Helens, Merseyside, WA9 3DA  
Telephone: 01744 646864



/sthknhs



@sthk.nhs

[www.sthk.nhs.uk](http://www.sthk.nhs.uk)



St Helens and Knowsley  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Trust

## Accessing psychological support for people with cancer

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

**Author:** Clinical Psychologist  
**Department:** Clinical Psychology  
**Document Number:** STHK0892  
**Version:** 2  
**Review date:** 01/08/2020

## Why might someone with cancer need psychological support?

Being diagnosed with cancer can be an extremely difficult and stressful time. Almost everyone will feel shocked and upset at first. For many people these feelings improve over time with support from their healthcare team, family and friends.

Everybody copes with cancer in a slightly different way and there is **no right or wrong way** to feel about having cancer. People can find different stages of the treatment process difficult. For some people, the hardest part starts when their medical treatment has ended.

If you find that the way you are feeling is **beginning to interfere** with your everyday life, it could be helpful to ask for some extra support with the emotional side of cancer, as well as the physical support you already receive from your medical team.

Some examples of problems that you could ask for help with:

- Coming to terms with and coping with cancer
- Feeling low or worried
- Changes to how you feel about yourself or other people
- Coping with medical treatment



## What should I do if I think I would like extra support?

If you live in St Helens, Knowsley or Halton, your local psychological services for people with cancer are based at St Helens Hospital.

- If you have a **cancer nurse specialist**, you can ask them to help you to access this service
- If you do not have a cancer nurse specialist, you can talk to your GP or the consultant that you see at the hospital. They will be able to make a referral for you.

If you do not live in St Helens, Knowsley or Halton, please ask your GP how to access psychological services where you live.

## What will happen next?

Your cancer nurse specialist can provide **information** and **support** about both the physical and emotional aspects of living with cancer. They will talk to you about how you are feeling and help you to decide what the best course of action might be. This could involve:

- Further contact with your cancer nurse specialist
- A referral to counselling or psychology services

## What can I expect from counselling or psychology services?

The counselling or psychology service will talk to you about how you have been feeling and help you to think about what has happened to you. There are a range of therapies that could be offered to help you to cope with the emotional impact of cancer.

You are likely to be offered an assessment session in which you will be asked about your experience of cancer, your current difficulties and the impact that this has had on your life. A plan of action would then be agreed between you and your therapist.