

MACMILLAN AND AGE UK CORNWALL CANCER SUPPORT SERVICE TO GO COUNTY-WIDE

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For immediate release

Macmillan Cancer Support and Age UK Cornwall and Isles of Scilly's partnership is to go from strength to strength with the roll out of county-wide support for older people living with cancer. The partnership continues to tackle loneliness, isolation and improve access to community support for Cornwall's older population who are affected by cancer but from July will aim to reach even more people with a new model of support. Featuring a new Community Navigator and Volunteer Experience Facilitator, funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, the re-launched initiative will utilise volunteer 'Community Champions' and the online portal [Cornwall Link](#) to create a network of support across the county.

Jacqui Hodge, Partnership Manager for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly explained "I'm so proud of what has been achieved to date with our partnership with Age UK Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, we've learned so much and reached a huge number of people who were really struggling with challenges such as isolation and depression exacerbated by their poor health. I'm looking forward to watching our new initiative roll out across the county and seeing how many more people we can help."

Since 2015 Age UK Cornwall and Isles of Scilly and Macmillan have been working together on the Living Well pilot project. Since then they have reached and supported 360 individuals living with cancer and their families with physical, emotional and practical issues. Support ranged from providing companionship; help accessing support groups and social activities; and solving practical problems such as finding someone to walk their dog when people were unwell or having treatment. As a result of this support, GP appointments and admissions to hospital were reduced by empowering people to connect to others and access support services in the community.

The new model of support will continue to offer companionship, social opportunities and practical help but will move away from one-to-one sessions so that a greater number of people can be reached. It will empower Community Champions, volunteers and utilise Cornwall Link to connect people to wider range of local support options.

Jacqui added “Moving on from one-to-one sessions and towards a network of volunteers and people-focused digital support tools such as Cornwall and Scilly Link will extend our reach considerably.”

Tracey Roose, Chief Executive of Age UK Cornwall and Isles of Scilly added “Isolation and loneliness can affect anyone at any time. For people affected by cancer it exacerbates an already challenging time, impacting on mental and physical wellbeing. Our partnership with Macmillan focuses on a shared ambition to make a difference to the lives of people in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly”

Anyone interested in becoming a Community Champion and working with [Macmillan](#) and [Age UK Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly](#) to help to support older people affected by cancer in Cornwall can contacting the Helpline on **01872 266383** or **email@ageukcornwall.org.uk**.

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For further information, please contact:

Sarah Cawthra
Regional Communications Officer
Macmillan Cancer Support
07977 247 621 / scawthra@macmillan.org.uk

or

Lee Davies
Marketing & Communications Advisor
Age UK Cornwall & The Isles of Scilly
01872 266383 / lee@ageukcornwall.org.uk