

# Capturing the Learning

## Service User / Carer Involvement Case Study



**Project title: Cancer Connected Communities West**

### What was the aim of the Involvement Project?

The Western Trust worked together with a number of local and regional cancer charities applied for funding to the National Lottery Community Fund.

Derry Well Woman (Lead partner)

Action Cancer

Cancer Focus

Care for Cancer, Omagh

Advice North West

SWELL (County Fermanagh)

#### **Project summary:**

Cancer patients take the lead in creating a change agenda to integrate cancer care in the WHSCT using coproduction and an engagement model to connect people living with cancer across communities to each other and organisations with the capability to improve their lives. The project will engage marginalised groups where cancer services are limited and barriers exist due to rurality, exclusion, fear; deliver support programmes; listen to cancer programme participants; set priorities for improved cancer services; directly articulate priorities to service planners to influence strategic change.

### What did you do?

The Western Trust worked in collaboration with the cancer charities to understand what people on the ground want and need in terms of cancer services; to understand what matters to them. Each charity undertook surveys with their service users which was used to form the basis of the People and Communities application.

After a rigorous application process, the project was approved for funding £465k. Derry Well Woman is the lead partner and each of the individual charities will receive funding to deliver support services and programmes to people affected by cancer whilst at the same time use a coproduction approach to connect and engage people living with cancer to each other and to organisations within their communities with the capability to improve their lives. One important element of this project is the engagement with marginalised groups and people who do not normally engage.

## How well did you do it?

The project has been successful in the application and the charities will receive funding to deliver services and support to the people that use their services. In addition, a Programme Manager will be appointed to take forward this ground up project forward.

## Is anyone better off?

The project is in its infancy with a planned launch in September.

## Future planning?

There is a lot of planning being done with much to do as the project rolls out. It is a very exciting time for the future of cancer services in the Western Trust and for people who engage with our services. By using the coproduction process, will mean that as a Trust we can respond effectively to the needs of our patients.