On Target : IAM 'Integrated Assessment Map'

Summary

It is recognised that a cancer diagnosis affects all aspects of a person's life and that adopting a holistic approach to needs assessment is the best way to support all cancer patients.

TYA have specific needs that differ from those of children and adults. An age specific holistic needs assessment (IAM) was developed in recognition of this. The assessment, initially designed in paper form to be completed soon after diagnosis to support discussion at the TYA MDaT meeting, provides a benchmark of how the patient feels in relation to 10 distinct domains. As part of the On Target programme, a web based application has been designed which will permit patients to access the IAM on their own devices (smart phone, tablet) and, in addition, to guide them to relevant and appropriate sources of information. The IAM also links to an interactive spreadsheet which allows data about patient need to be collected and summated







Young people's involvement

This purpose of the website is to shift the focus and ownership of the assessment map from the professionals to the patient. As a result the use of a co-creation / co-design methodology was seen as critical to the success of the intervention. As such, the key features of the development process were :

- The look and feel of the website was taken from the Help website which was built collaboratively with young people.
- A co-design event was held with TYA representatives to design specific features of the website.
- The icons used on the site specific to IAM have been co-created with a TYA representative.
- The website has feedback mechanisms built in which patients and professionals are encouraged to use, to allow the ongoing enhancements. Feedback can be given using a 'star rating' system, or by sending messages via the website.

Tackling inequalities

The IAM website is :

- Available to patients across the south west
- Available to patients "24/7".
- Designed with selectable graphics that have been developed with visual impairment in mind

TYA staff are engaged and have had training to support patients in the use of the IAM

Promoting early intervention

The website is designed to be available to patients immediately after their first meeting with the TYA Service and soon after diagnosis. It will help them focus on their changing needs throughout their cancer experience.

Successful implementation of learning

- Integration of the IAM into routine practice.
- Opportunities for application in other cancer patient populations and into other aspects of young people's health