



**INFORMATION FOR  
TEENAGERS AND  
YOUNG ADULTS  
WITH CANCER  
RECEIVING CARE IN  
THE SOUTH WEST  
OF ENGLAND**





## **WHY HAVE I BEEN GIVEN THIS LEAFLET?**

Being diagnosed with cancer may well be one of the scariest and hardest times of your life. The Teenage and Young Adult cancer service in the South West (TYA SW) is here to help. TYA SW coordinates the delivery of specialist cancer care to young people between 16 and 24 years of age across the South West of England.

Our dedicated team of specialists have expert knowledge in looking after young people with different types of cancer, including leukaemia and brain tumours. We see everyone as an individual, not just a diagnosis.

This leaflet describes how TYA SW is organized, and how we hope to make things easier for you in getting through what lies ahead.





## WHY AM I BEING REFERRED TO THE TEENAGE AND YOUNG ADULT CANCER SERVICE IN THE SOUTH WEST?

The Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre (BHOC) is part of University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, the home of TYA SW. The BHOC has a specialist unit, (known as Area 61) for the care of TYA's with cancer. This is the 'Principal Treatment Centre' (PTC) in the South West and links with teams across hospitals in:

- Gloucester
- Cheltenham
- North Bristol
- Bath
- Taunton
- Exeter
- Plymouth
- Truro

These hospitals are in partnership with the Bristol unit and are 'designated' for TYA cancer care. Together, we form a network of TYA professionals who are committed to the care of young people like you.

Our aim is to ensure that all young people whenever possible and appropriate, can receive some or all their treatment at a hospital closer to their home, as well as ensuring that all TYA's with cancer are offered specialist age-appropriate care alongside; psychological, emotional, financial, practical, educational, and social support that they, their family and friends may find they need.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-hospitals/bhoc/teenage-and-young-adult-cancer-service/>

## HOW DID THE TEENAGE AND YOUNG ADULT CANCER SERVICE IN THE SOUTH WEST FIND OUT ABOUT ME?

In line with NHS policy, cancer care for people of all ages is guided by specialists who work together in multidisciplinary teams (MDTs). Each MDT consists of experts in different types of cancer care and specialties, and this helps us ensure that everyone with cancer is offered the best care for their particular situation. This is where your diagnosis and treatment will be discussed and the MDT team will have expert knowledge of the kind of cancer you have been diagnosed with.

In addition, your MDT team will pass on information about you, your cancer, and the plans for its treatment to our specialist TYA MDT, called the TYA Multidisciplinary Advisory Team (MDaT). The TYA MDaT will usually discuss your care a little while after the initial diagnosis so they can better assess what additional help and support can be offered to you and your family in dealing with your cancer diagnosis and treatment.

The PTC in Bristol and its members come from across TYA SW, from different professional backgrounds, and from different organisations. We all work within the NHS and are specialists in young people's cancer care, and are required to keep our discussions confidential. We only share information about you that is relevant to your cancer care, and recommendations made by the TYA MDaT are always shared with the team treating you.

Information collected within TYA SW is regularly reviewed at the MDaT so that the care we offer to young people can be improved in the future. Nothing which identifies you individually will be shared with anyone other than those involved in the MDaT discussions and in treating you. If you have any concerns about information being passed onto the TYA MDaT, then you should contact the doctor, nurse or professional that you have the most contact with.





## CHOOSING WHERE YOU'D LIKE TO BE TREATED

If you are aged 16 to 18 years old you will most likely be referred to TYA unit in Bristol, Area 61, where your treatment may be under the care of a paediatric or adult cancer team. Your doctor will explain which of these options might be best for you.

If you are aged between 19 and 24 years (before 25th birthday), you should be offered the choice to receive your treatment at the TYA Unit in Bristol, or to stay at the hospital designated for TYA care closest to your home. Your doctor or specialist nurse will be happy to discuss this with you, and wherever possible, offer you a visit to Area 61 and to meet the team in Bristol.

Working out which is the best place for you to receive your treatment may be hard. We suggest you talk to your treating team, your family, and close friends about this too. You can also contact the TYA specialist nurse at your current or nearest hospital for further advice about your choice, and the support available to you whatever you decide to do.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Once we know about you, one of the TYA SW team will contact you in hospital or at home and offer to meet you to talk about how you are doing, the choices you need to make, and how we can help.

Although the only purpose built TYA unit is in Bristol, each of the other hospitals in the TYA SW network has some facilities especially designed to make things a little easier for you when you come to the hospital.

Most importantly, there is a TYA specialist nurse available to you and your family. The nurse will work closely with your treatment team and will ensure that you get the best possible care and support.

Depending on where you live you may have support from a **Young Lives vs Cancer Social Worker** and a local Cancer Support Centre.

If you decide to go to Bristol for treatment, the team at your current hospital will ensure a safe transfer. A member of the Bristol team will meet you soon after your arrival, arrange a time to talk about what help is on offer, and what you think you need.

Accommodation can usually be offered for a member of your family or a friend to accompany you. The hospital website: [www.uhbristol.nhs.uk](http://www.uhbristol.nhs.uk) offers further information about how to get to us, hospital facilities, parking, shops etc...





## **CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE TYA SW TEAM IN BRISTOL**

**Area 61 Teenage Cancer Trust  
Inpatient Unit:**  
01173 421133

**Area 61 Teenage Cancer Trust  
Day Unit:**  
01173 427198

**TYA SW team office:**  
01173 421713

**TYA Specialist Nurse:**  
07827 896110

**Teenage Cancer Trust TYA:  
Lead Nurse:**  
07909 891884

**University Hospitals Bristol  
and Weston NHS Foundation  
Trust Switchboard:**  
01179 230000

## **CONTACT DETAILS FOR TYA SPECIALIST NURSES AT OTHER TYA SW HOSPITALS**

**Gloucester and Cheltenham:**  
07833 441289

**North Bristol and RUH Bath:**  
07827 896110

**Exeter:**  
07717 325391

**Taunton:**  
07760 551214

**Plymouth:**  
07769 282561

**Truro:**  
07879 486675

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

[www.teenagecancertrust.org.uk](http://www.teenagecancertrust.org.uk)  
[www.jtvcancersupport.com](http://www.jtvcancersupport.com)  
[www.macmillan.org.uk](http://www.macmillan.org.uk)  
[www.younglivescancer.org.uk](http://www.younglivescancer.org.uk)  
[www.iamportal.co.uk](http://www.iamportal.co.uk)