

CANCER

HELPING CWU MEMBERS DEAL WITH IT



Cancer is a much talked about subject. More and more people are facing direct experience of the devastating impact Cancer tends to have once a loved one has been diagnosed.

The Equality Department has received many enquiries from members asking whether we could develop a fact sheet of which its primary purpose will be to offer some general facts and most importantly sign-post people to organisations which can offer support.

Many people will not be aware that Cancer is one of the few areas which is automatically covered by the Equality Act 2010. Apart from Cancer, MS, HIV and Severe Disfigurement are the only other areas to be afforded this special classification.

From an employment context an employer should be sympathetic, helping their staff to come through these unfortunate episodes. Most employers are professional and sensitive but we are all aware of stories where Cancer sufferers have had to deal with unsympathetic management, which to be honest is the last thing they wish to be dealing with when they have such a massive personal battle going on. The Equality Act is here to help many people and particularly on the subject of Cancer the employer MUST comply with its obligations in relation to reasonable adjustments, which is articulated in Section 20 of the Act.

For more info on employment rights we would refer you to our fact sheet on the Equality Act and you may wish to explore sections 15, 20, 26 and 158.

Once someone is diagnosed with Cancer and they are in the care of the NHS, it is normal for them to be referred to support groups such as Macmillan,

Marie Curie or if a young person is involved there are specialist support groups such as Teen Cancer Trust. All these charities offer excellent support and their details will be sign-posted for you at the foot of this page.

CANCER FACTS

The following information is available more widely from the Cancer Research UK website.

- There are more than 200 types of Cancers
- Every 2 minutes, someone somewhere in the UK is diagnosed with Cancer
- Breast, Lung, Prostate and Bowel cancers attribute to over half all of the new cancers diagnosed every year.
- Cancer can be diagnosed at any age but it is most common in people 75 and over with over a third of new cases coming from this age bracket.
- Cancer survival rates in the UK have doubled in the last 40 years

SIGN-POSTING TO HELP & SUPPORT

Macmillan 0808 8080000

Teenage Cancer Trust 020 7612 0370

Willow Foundation 01707 259 777

Marie Curie 0800 716146

The Willow Foundation provides special days out to the terminally ill and relies on donations, as do all these charities doing great work.

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