Lymphoedema Awards 2012

1st Place
Mary Warrilow and Kris Jones
The Lymphoedema Awards 2012 – 1st Place

Mary Warrilow and Kris Jones

Entry statement

Why should they win?

This is a team application.

Dudley Lymphoedema Service was originally set up with Macmillan funding in 2006. Kris Jones and Mary Warrilow (CNS) have developed and grown the service and staff and have now set up the service as a Social Enterprise - LymphCare UK. There are only an estimated 25 NHS services throughout the country that have taken this option as part of the Government’s changes and plans to put clinicians at the helm of services. The team are the only Social Enterprise solely providing Lymphoedema Services using this model. The service has evolved and now offers a bespoke service to patients with three local clinics as well as offering home visits. As an integrated community service it works in partnership with both voluntary and charitable organisations. The partnership working has led to a more holistic and innovative service which is appreciated by, and beneficial to, patients suffering with lymphoedema.

In March 2010, as part of Transforming Community Services, the lymphoedema team took the decision to go through the Department of Health’s Right to Request programme to become a Social Enterprise. This has been both a challenging and exciting journey for us as a team. Kris Jones and Mary Warrilow, who have led the project, have had to put in expressions of interest, produce integrated business plans and apply for Social Enterprise Investment funding as well as continue with service provision. Most challenging was presenting to the local PCT board and Strategic Health Authority, gaining their support and approval to become a viable social enterprise.

We are now responsible for our own organisation, which is very patient focused. We have set up our own board of directors and have recently won another three year contract to provide local lymphoedema services to a neighbouring PCT. We feel that we are now able to be more flexible and responsive as a service. It is less bureaucratic than being part of a PCT or Foundation Trust. We know that there are real benefits to our patients by being a Social Enterprise and Community Interest Company. We feel that we will be able to provide better outcomes for our patients; all our profits will be re-invested back into the lymphoedema service. The patients and the local Black Country Lymphoedema Support group have been very helpful and supportive throughout this process.

As a Social Enterprise we plan to offer much more - i.e. specialist bra shop, improved training and development, the development
Supporting statement

Manager comment

As this is a team application and Mary Warrilow and Kris Jones are both leading this project and also responsible for the organisation’s management, it is difficult to get a manager’s statement as we are the managers. So I have attached a copy of a letter from the Chair of Dudley PCT. I can also assure you that the team have achieved so much and it is the team’s dedication and hard work and their passion for lymphoedema and improving services which has led to this success. Each individual has inputted in some way or another to the success of the initiative.

Yours Sincerely

Mary Warrilow/Kris Jones
LymphCare UK

Copy Of Letter From Chair

(Original can be emailed).

Dear Mary

LYMPH CARE UK

Many congratulations on achieving official status as a Social Enterprise. The whole Trust Board joins me in wishing you well in your new venture. I know it has been a long and difficult journey and we are proud of your commitment and determination. Very few potential Social Enterprises have managed to complete the process. Patients are very fortunate to have such a dedicated, forward thinking team looking after their needs.

Thank you for all your hard work. I am sure Lymph Care UK will go from strength to strength.

Gill Cooper,
Interim Chair - Dudley PCT

Mary Warrilow and Kris Jones would like to thank the Chair of the new board, Geoff Walker CEO from Sandwell Community Caring Trust, a well established Social Enterprise, who has been very supportive throughout their journey.