

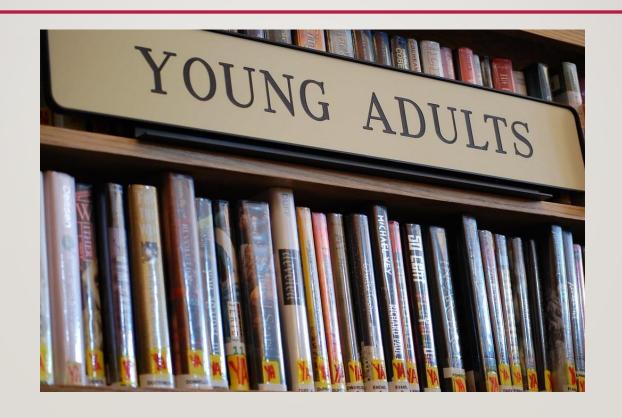






DR JANE DAVIES

AN EXPLORATION OF THE EXPERIENCE AND ROLES OF THE PARTNERS OF ADOLESCENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS WITH CANCER



- Funded by RCBC Wales as a postdoctoral fellowship
- A young adult advisory group was formulated prior to the study
- Contributed to the research design
- Assisted with development of participant materials
- Engaged in a reflection of study findings
- Considered recommendations based on partner support linked to the findings.



- The objectives were as follows:
- To explore the nature of the experience relating to the partners of adolescents and young adults between 16 and 24 with cancer
- To understand what helps and what hinders in the context of partners giving support to adolescents and young adults with cancer
- To provide an in-depth account of the types of support that partners provide
- To develop a substantive evidenced based toolkit for partners of adolescents and young adults with cancer in this age group, thus enabling them to provide the most effective support.

- Narrative approach with a view to telling a story
- 10 participants aged between 16 to 30 who had been in a relationship with someone for at least three months and where cancer treatment was ongoing
- Two interviews eight weeks apart allowing for different contexts over time
- Diary keeping for eight weeks
- Thematic analysis.

- The importance of presence and advice prior to diagnosis
- Being there when the news of diagnosis came
- The parental context
- Partners continuing with work and education, the usefulness of support
- The experience of physical and emotional care: The scale of the role and the impact on the relationship
- Getting through.



Extracts from Ellen's experience



- Summary and Recommendations
- In this study, partners had a central role both prior to diagnosis, at the point of diagnosis and during treatment when adolescents and young adults had cancer.
- There appears to be complexity in relation to the ways in which parents are involved during the cancer trajectory when adolescents and young adults are engaged in romantic relationships.
- Partners everyday lives need to be considered with respect to education and work.
- Professionals need to be aware of the impact of caring on partners and develop strategies to help in this context.
- Partners need advice about how to 'get through'.

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