



**"IT MUST BE HARDER FOR HIM
THAN IT IS FOR ME".**

DR JANE DAVIES

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




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- **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.**



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- **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.**
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- **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.**

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- **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.**




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Extracts from Ellen's experience



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- **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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