

Development of a National Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology services in Ireland for Children Adolescents and Young Adults (CAYA) with Cancer (0-24yrs)

Chair:

Dr Chiara Besani

Principal Clinical Psychologist
CAYA Psycho-Oncology Clinical Lead
National Paediatric Psycho-Oncology Service
Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin

Chiara attended the Università Cattolica of Milano in 1998 and completed her first placement with children with cancer in 2001. Since then her passion for Paediatric Psycho-Oncology continued to grow. She completed a Dclin Doctorate and a Clinical Research Fellowship in Paediatric Psycho-Oncology. She started to work in the National Children Cancer Service in 2015, where she became Principal Psychologist and Clinical Lead in Psycho-Oncology in 2019. She has worked tirelessly to develop a National Paediatric Psycho-Oncology Service in Ireland and was recently involved in developing a National Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology for Children, Adolescent and Young Adult (CAYA).

Facilitators:

Dr Helen Greally

Principal Clinical Manager
National Clinical Programme Lead for Psycho-Oncology
National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)

Dr Helen Greally is National Clinical Programme Lead in Psycho-Oncology at The National Cancer Control Programme. This role was created to oversee the implementation of key recommendations in the Irish National Cancer Strategy, including providing clinical leadership of, and steering the work of the Psycho-oncology programme, and collaborating amongst clinical colleagues. The role also ensures that Psycho-Oncology services are developed in a way that is equitable, quality driven and effective and to align developments with evolving models of care in mental health services across the HSE.

She has an abiding interest in improving services for those affected by a cancer diagnosis.

Ms Deirdre Love

Project Manager
Psycho-Oncology Programme
National Cancer Control Programme
Dr Chiara Besani

Deirdre is an Evidence Methodologist with the NCCP and was recently involved in project managing the development of a National Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology for CAYA in Ireland. Deirdre completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology with National University of Ireland, Galway, followed by a Masters in Health Psychology with the University of Ulster and a Postgraduate Certificate in Psycho-Oncology with

University College Dublin. In her current role, she was also involved in developing a National Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology (for adult cancer patients and their families) in Ireland and establishing Best Practice Guidance for Community Cancer Support Centres.

- **Description of workshop and learning objectives**

Significant need for investment in Psycho-Oncology services was highlighted in the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, which stated that each cancer centre will establish a dedicated service to address the psychosocial needs of patients and their families. This workshop explores how a National Model of Care for Psycho-Oncology services for CAYA (0-24yrs) was developed in Ireland, through the collaboration of the NCCP, the National Paediatric Psycho-Oncology Service, and other key stakeholders. The aim of this workshop is to share our framework to support how psychosocial care should be delivered to this cohort and their families. It is based on international best practice and is a blueprint for promoting psychological well-being, improving access to psychological services, and enhancing quality of life for these young people who are faced with the challenge of a cancer diagnosis.

Learning objectives:

1. To discuss the psychosocial needs of cancer patients and their families based on Irish experience and International Standards of Care
2. To explore how we designed a National Model of Care with the capacity to cross voluntary, primary and acute hospital services
3. To identify how we supported the development of Psycho-Oncology MDTs for CAYA services (incl. team composition, assessment of needs, patient pathway)