

# Media Release



**To: National/Local**  
**Date: November 12<sup>th</sup> 2007**  
**Release: Forth Valley Cancer Survey**

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## FORTH VALLEY CANCER SURVEY

Six hundred cancer patients in NHS Forth Valley are to be asked about their need for emotional support during their illness, and whether or not they would welcome a drop-in centre being established in this area. Questionnaires are being sent to people who are four months to a year post diagnosis, seeking ideas to improve the quality of their lives.

The £52,000 survey is being funded by Macmillan Cancer Support, and letters are currently being despatched asking patients whether they wish to participate. They will be asked for views on the emotional difficulties associated with the cancer experience, what support they have found helpful and what they would like to see in future.

Topics covered include experiencing depression, feelings of isolation and problems sleeping. Carers can become involved too. In addition the survey will try to determine whether a cancer support and information centre should be set up in Forth Valley.

People are also being invited to have their voices heard at meetings in Forth Valley's two acute hospitals – Stirling Royal Infirmary and Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary. Health professionals are keen to learn from the personal experiences of patients and carers, and their views could contribute towards new patient information leaflets and changes in the way people affected by cancer are helped.

Sandra Campbell, NHS Forth Valley Nurse Consultant for Cancer and Palliative Care said: "One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer at some stage in their life and we have to make sure that the best possible services are in place for all of these people. We have made great strides in reducing waiting times from GP referral to treatment for people suspected of having cancer but we also have to remember that this is only the start of an emotional journey that requires support."

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### **Forth Valley NHS Board**

Carseview House, Castle Business Park, Stirling, FK9 4SW,  
Telephone 01786 463031 Fax 01786 470984  
E-mail [yourhealthservice@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:yourhealthservice@fvhb.scot.nhs.uk)  
[www.nhsforthvalley.com](http://www.nhsforthvalley.com)

*Forth Valley NHS Board is the common name for Forth Valley Health Board*

*Notes to Editors*

For further information and dates of meetings please contact Communications Department on  
01786 457243