

# Pilot initiative on “Buddy Scheme” in Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Trust

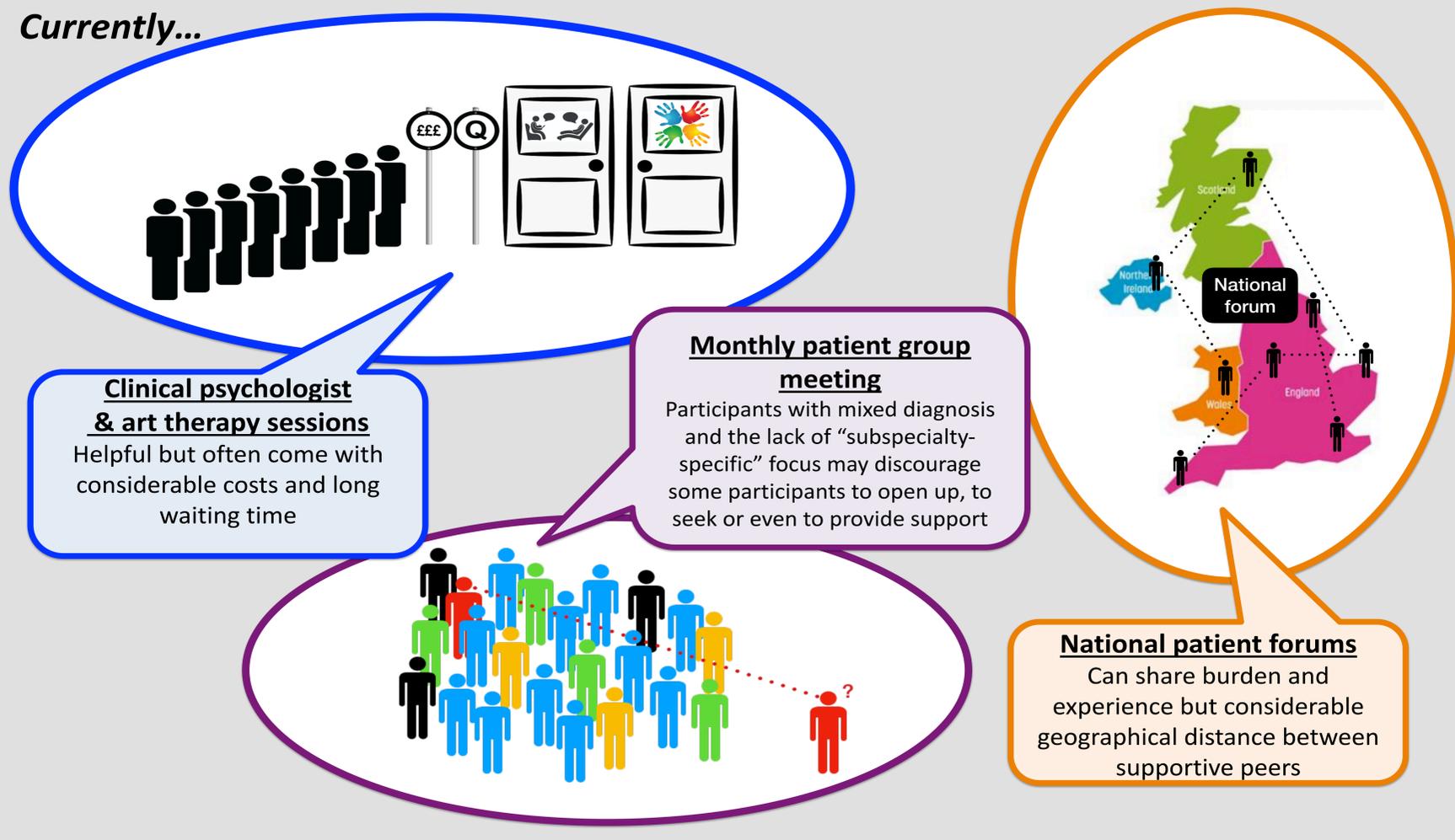
Tracey Small<sup>1</sup>, Angela Gascoigne<sup>1</sup>, Gemma Keen<sup>1</sup>, Rebecca Chadwick<sup>1</sup>, Lisa Lowton<sup>1</sup>, Jenny Tam<sup>1</sup>  
1. Chesterfield Royal Hospital

## Background

Holistic care provision is an integral part of clinical management for haematology patients. Peer support could have significant impact in e.g. multiple myeloma where autologous stem cell transplant is frequently considered; yet patients could be dismissive of the treatment option out of fear or lack of understanding. As such it is invaluable to talk to someone who has been through the process before engaging in further discussion.



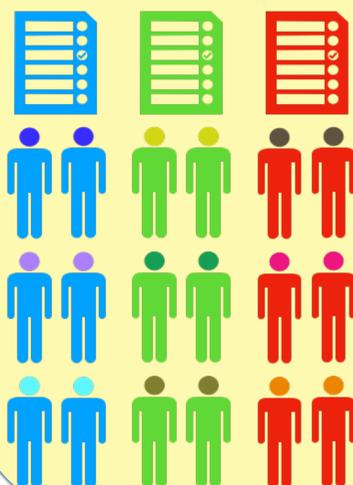
## Currently...



## Buddy Scheme, initiated May 2019

### Setting up

- Local fellow patients to become “buddies”
- Voluntary registration
- Consented to have name/ diagnosis / contact details committed to Database
- Paired by diagnosis and personality



### Outcome by Jan 2020

- Cost neutral
- **12** registered buddies
- **8** successful pairings
- Feedback from patients and spouses – **overwhelmingly positive**

## Next step?

**Before considering expansion, we must review & risk assess**

### Patient confidentiality

- Scheme currently managed by Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)-led nursing team
- Buddy Database kept in a secure hospital system and only accessible by Nurse-in-charge

### Patient safety

- Professional, legal and ethical liability
- Is there more we need to do to safeguard potentially vulnerable patients?