

## PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate release: Monday 8 February 2016**



<Photo> *Sam Hackett, Sarcoma Specialist Nurse*

### **Sarcoma UK launches Support Line**

From today, anyone affected by sarcoma cancer can phone Sarcoma UK's free Support Line for high quality independent information and support.

Last year, the charity directly supported over 700 people and families affected by sarcoma. A dedicated Support Line means we can help even more people who are looking for help by phone or email.

*"I wanted to say thank you for the support & information I received from Sarcoma UK to help us through a difficult time with our son's illness. The information you gave was spot on & issues have been resolved in a way that far exceeds our expectations."*

Following an increase in donations from our supporters the charity is proud to step-up our services for the sarcoma community, through this confidential national Support Line. This means patients and their families have a direct line to a dedicated Sarcoma Specialist Nurse who can support them and provide information about their treatment and care, five days a week.

The service is available to anyone affected by sarcoma throughout the UK, and our team has up-to-date information about sarcoma for patients and families in the devolved nations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Lindsey Bennister, Chief Executive of Sarcoma UK says: "We have identified a real need for a national Support Line for people affected by all types of sarcoma – bone, soft tissue and GIST. You can ask about diagnosis, treatment or care, or you can just ring to talk through what is happening with you. We offer an empathetic listening ear. The service is open to anyone with concerns about sarcoma including patients,

families, friends and health professionals. We could not have launched this service without the generosity of our supporters.”

Sarcoma UK Support Line number is **0808 801 0401**. *Calls to this number do not appear on phone bills.*  
Email [supportline@sarcoma.org.uk](mailto:supportline@sarcoma.org.uk)

We aim to respond to your query within 48 hours during the open hours of our service.

Opening times are:

Monday 10am - 2pm  
Tuesday Midday - 4pm  
Wednesday 8am – Midday  
Thursday Midday - 4pm  
Friday 10am - 2pm

Please check our website for details of opening times. [sarcoma.org.uk/supportline](http://sarcoma.org.uk/supportline)

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#### **Notes to editors:**

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#### **About sarcoma**

- Sarcomas are rare cancers that develop in the muscle, bone, nerves, cartilage, tendons, blood vessels and the fatty and fibrous tissues
- There are around 100 different sub-types of sarcoma
- There are around 3,800 new cases of sarcoma diagnosed each year in the UK:
  - 3,330 people are diagnosed with a soft tissue sarcoma (including GIST)
  - 500 people are diagnosed with a bone sarcoma
- 10 people every day are diagnosed with sarcoma in the UK

- Sarcomas make up 1% of all cancer diagnoses in the UK

## About Sarcoma UK

Sarcoma UK is the only charity in the UK focusing on all types of sarcoma.

Our mission is to increase knowledge and awareness of sarcoma through ground-breaking programmes that inspire involvement and transform the landscape for everyone affected by sarcoma

- We initiate change to raise sarcoma **awareness** and improve standards of treatment and care
- We seek answers through **research**
- We provide **support & information** for the sarcoma community