

Yorkshire and Humber Children, Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Clinical Network Newsletter

The second issue

Highlights in this issue include: Research updates across the network, new appointments and achievements in our centres and information regarding the 2025 Education Day.



**Yorkshire & Humber Children,
Teenage & Young Adult Cancer
Clinical Network**

New appointments



Network Lead Nurse

Helen Richards has recently been appointed to the Network Lead Nurse role and will primarily be working to improve PPIE in TYA and Children's services; aiming to ensure that young people's voices are at the heart of everything the network sets out to deliver. She will be organising steering groups for this project with engagement from key stakeholders, Children, Teenagers and Young Adults and care givers. If you'd like any more information please email:

helen.richards12@nhs.net.

Helen has over 20 years nursing experience and will share her time as Children's cancer CNS for the Long Term Follow Up service in Leeds.



Network Clinical Educator

Kelly Smith is the new Network Clinical Educator and will be starting in post from 16th April 2025 for 1 year. She will be working closely with the network lead nurses to identify gaps in children and TYA nursing education and training, forming a strategy on how best to meet this need across the network.

Kelly has worked for LTHT for 8 years and brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm for training and education.

kelly.smith45@nhs.net



Recent achievements

Marie Beeson (POSCU Deputy Nurse—Calderdale and Huddersfield) has recently completed the university accredited 'Care of the Child with Cancer' course. NLAG Lead Nurses Karen York and Sara Jane Goodwin have achieved their GCP and SACT training. Jo Lyons (Lead Nurse—HUTH) has commenced her university prescribing course, which will be of great benefit to the service. We would like to congratulate them all on these wonderful achievements.

The physio and occupational therapist team at Sheffield Children's have presented a number of posters at CCLG annual meeting in April including:

- *Fibula Autografts for humeral reconstruction: Don't forget the leg*
- *Sports and Activity Community Days for Children & Young People Through Cancer Treatment & Beyond; the Benefits and National Roll Out*
- *Providing young cancer patients with personalised exercise plans through the Xploro® patient engagement platform.*

These are great examples of innovation in practice across the network and if anyone would like any more information please contact Debbi (deborah.rowley2@nhs.net), Ellie (eleonor.james3@nhs.net) and Debbie (debbie.biggane@nhs.net).

Michelle Kite (Matron—LTHT) has secured funding for a dedicated 24/7 OWLS (Oncology and Haematology Walk-in Liaison Service) at Leeds PTC. Feedback from families has shown improvement in the quality of their experience during unplanned attendance.

Recent appointments

Dr Julia Nicholson has been appointed as Deputy Lead Clinician in Calderdale and Huddersfield to work alongside Dr Liz Higgs.

Sheffield Children's Hospital have appointed a new consultant, Dr Richard Calvert, who will be working in the areas of Leukaemia and BMT.

Baz Rodgers (Professional and Clinical Lead—Nursing & AHP) and Jason Pawluk (Managing Director) have joined the network executive board as representatives of the WY&H Cancer Alliance.

We would like to welcome them all to the network and look forward to working closely together in the future.

Dates for your diary

Education Day:

1st October 2025

TYA Network Meetings (3-5pm):

9th June 2025

2nd September 2025

3rd December 2025

Children's Network Meetings (1-3pm):

23rd April 2025

16th July 2025

8th October 2025

**Please visit our
website here:**





Overview

Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) cancer research is essential for improving care and outcomes for young people. Research includes studies on quality of life, the impact of cancer treatment on fertility, and the ongoing support required during and after treatment, and social reintegration post cancer survivorship. We also facilitate TYA patients' involvement in biobanking, supporting future cancer research. By prioritising what is most important to young people, we aim to improve services and outcomes for those affected by cancer.



Research Highlight—Leeds Teaching Hospital

Reproductive function in TYA cancer survivors - PROTECT

PROTECT is a national study examining how cancer treatments impact reproductive function in TYA patients. The study aims to understand how cancer diagnosis, treatment, and age at treatment affect fertility markers and long-term reproductive health in survivors. The findings will help improve fertility preservation options and inform care strategies for TYA cancer patients in the future. The study is being delivered scientifically by the MRC group in Edinburgh, but has Leeds leadership in the design and implementation.



Research Highlight—Sheffield Teaching Hospital

Young Survivors of Cancer: Phase I study to determine the item sets for child, adolescent, and young adult cancer survivors

This study draws on the experience of health professionals and young survivors. Through semi structured interviews the study aims to find out what matters most to young people who have had cancer, providing professionals with recommendations about what should be monitored and managed following cancer treatment. The study follows from point of diagnosis, treatment and current life to identify these issues. This study is sponsored by Southampton University



Overview

Research with children and young people with cancer has allowed 5-year survival rates to climb from 10% in the 1970s to 85% in the current decade. It has been an essential part of cancer care since the beginning, and Yorkshire and the Humber has been at the heart of hundreds of clinical studies over the years. The cancer clinical network is committed to continuing to make access to clinical studies as equitable, accessible, and comprehensive as possible



Research Highlight—Sheffield Children's Hospital

Respiratory virus point of care pilot



The team at Sheffield Children's have run a pilot project using a new respiratory virus point of care test machine which can test for 12 viruses and 4 bacteria in children with respiratory symptoms and give results in just 16 minutes. This allowed rapid decisions about the need for isolation, admission and antibiotics and the safety of proceeding with chemotherapy. The pilot study showed that the results influenced patient management in 43% of cases. This is the first use of this particular platform in children undergoing cancer therapy and we believe it may prove a very useful addition to haematology and oncology wards and day care units in the future.



Research Highlight—Leeds Teaching Hospital

CiproPAL



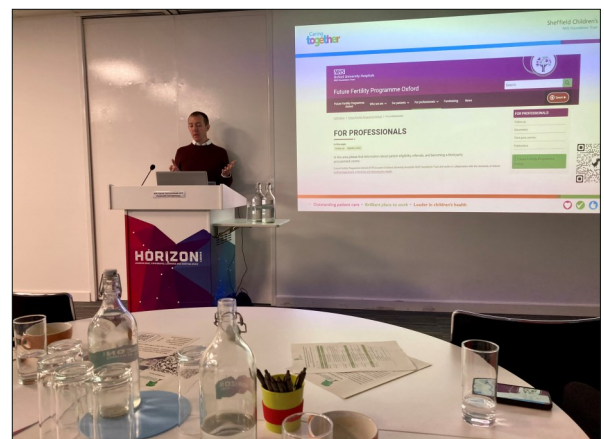
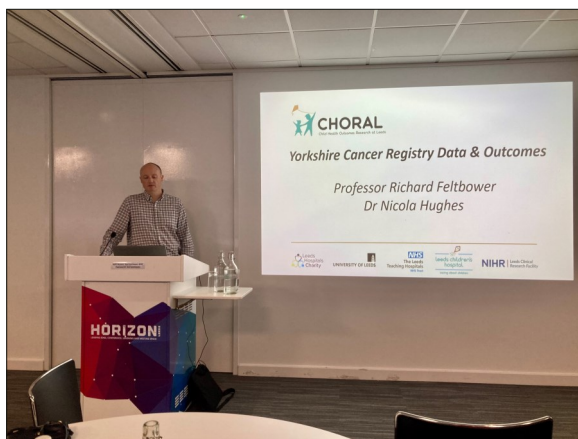
CiproPAL is a clinical trial led by Prof Bob Phillips and Dr Jess Morgan to see if a regular dose of antibiotic during the first ('induction') period of treatment for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia can reduce infections and prevent the need for broader spectrum antibiotics. It's also looking to see how this approach changes antibiotic resistance patterns. The trial is funded by the NIHR HTA programme, and is the largest of it's kind in the world.

Click [here](#) to read more.

Education Day 2025

Our 2025 Education Day will take place at Novotel Sheffield Centre on the 1st October 2025. More details will be announced soon but please email p.carley@nhs.net to secure your place, or if you have any suggestions of speakers or topics to cover.

[Resilience with Rohan](#) was a highlight speaker from last years event and you can find out more about his work on the link provided.



Photos from last years event in October 2024 at Horizon, Leeds.

To join the network mailing list please email
p.carley@nhs.net



**Yorkshire & Humber Children,
Teenage & Young Adult Cancer
Clinical Network**



This newsletter will be sent twice annually to give you updates on the activity of the CTYA Cancer Clinical Network.