

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

The fourth issue

Highlights in this issue include: Education Day updates, Ambulatory Chemotherapy, Bolus Chemotherapy and Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Awareness Month.



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

Network News

Education Day

Following the success of last years event in Sheffield, the 2026 Network Education Day will be held at Horizon Leeds on 1st October. More information will be available soon but please contact p.carley@nhs.net if you wish to reserve your place early and share with any interested colleagues.

Kelly Smith is co-ordinating the educational content and if you have any suggestions for topics to cover please email directly to kelly.smith45@nhs.net.

TYA Joint Care Funding

The network is pleased to announce funding from the West Yorkshire and Harrogate Cancer Alliance for a Band 7 Project Manager to lead the TYA Joint Care project. This is very exciting progress in vital regional work for young people and their families.

The initial proposal covers patients in Leeds and Hull but the work undertaken in this project will be replicated in the Yorkshire and Humber region in due course.

Kelly Smith—CCLG Secondment

Kelly has been seconded to CCLG, for one day a week for the next year to work within the project team as project manager, leading and delivering the review and update of the CCLG children's career and education framework (2022).

The role will involve project management training, working alongside the chief nurses at CCLG and driving a national initiative that benefits services, young people and their families across the country.

We wish Kelly the best of luck in her new role alongside her existing Clinical Educator post.

Leeds Bolus Chemotherapy Service

Leeds Children's Hospital has pioneered home-delivered bolus chemotherapy for children and young people, launching the service in April 2020 in response to the pandemic. Now benefiting 174 families, the service has delivered over 1,210 home visits, significantly improving their experience of care and providing cost savings in terms of time, finances and psychosocial impacts of their cancer journey.

An Independent Carbon assessment report commissioned in November 2025 confirms this change in service delivery represents a substantial contribution to the Trust's carbon reduction objectives and Green Plan.

Positive family feedback and robust governance processes has enabled spread of this innovative practice, with the North West Clinical Network adopting the Leeds Children's Hospital service delivery model.

The Bolus chemotherapy service, together with our other innovative developments, Ambulatory Chemotherapy and Virtual Ward form our Care Closer to Home package, which seeks to provide real choice to CYP and their families to receive safe, high quality specialist treatment and support within their community, whilst helping to reduce inequalities in access and provision.

For more information please contact Julie White (julie.white32@nhs.net)

Hull updates

Jo Lyons (Paediatric Oncology Nurse Specialist) updated with positive news from Hull.

- Funds granted for a Photo Biomodulation Machine and awaiting delivery
- Febrile Neutropenia proforma has been updated and awaiting approval from clinical governance
- Hull and Scarborough blood results are now available for staff in Leeds to see on ICE.

Dates for your diary

TYA Network Meetings (3-5pm):

8th June 2026
8th September 2026
9th December 2026

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

April 22nd 2026
July 8th 2026
October 7th 2026

Education Day

1st October—Horizon Leeds

Please visit our website here:



TYA Cancer Awareness Month (TYACAM)

TYACAM is an opportunity to shed light on the unique challenges faced by young people during a cancer diagnosis, and to advocate for the support and care they need.

22 Charities are joining forces with one shared mission: to make sure that young people's voices are heard and that they receive the specialist cancer care they need and deserve. [Click here](#) for more information from Candlelighters



TYA Regional Study Day

The TYA Study Day took place on 21st April 2026 at Leeds Met Hotel, co-ordinated by the Teenage and Young Adult Teams from Sheffield and Leeds.

Topics included: TYA brain development, neurodiversity and palliative care. It was an engaging and valuable day with attendees from across the Yorkshire, Humber and North Lincolnshire region.




National Cancer Plan—TYA

[Click here](#) to view the National Cancer Plan (Children and Young People's Cancer from page 64). This strengthens Teenage and Young Adult cancer care by improving access to specialist TYA expertise, reducing regional variation, supporting personalised and holistic care, enabling flexible transitions, expanding workforce skills, improving research access, and prioritising long-term quality of life for young people with cancer.

It features a case study: *Youth Support Coordinators in Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Care* available on page 67.

Sheffield Children's Virtual Ward

We're delighted to share that Sheffield Children's Virtual Wards Team has won the Innovation in Practice Award at the national Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG) Member Awards.

 This award recognises the team's fantastic work in enabling children and young people with cancer to receive hospital-level care safely in their own homes, improving patient experience and reducing time spent in hospital. The programme uses digital monitoring and innovative care pathways, including chemotherapy hydration at home.


This national recognition reflects the dedication, teamwork and innovation of everyone involved. A huge congratulations and thank you to the Virtual Wards Team for this outstanding achievement.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Ambulatory Chemotherapy Service in Leeds

Last week the Ambulatory Chemotherapy (AC) project team at Leeds Children's Hospital featured on ITV News Calendar with a report about how the service is helping young people and their families.

 Ambulatory chemotherapy is an alternative to being admitted to a hospital ward for chemotherapy. Young people can leave the hospital connected to a pump that rests in a back pack, which continuously administers their treatment whilst at home.

The report centres around 15-year-old Evie who is being treated for a sarcoma. Evie and her family kindly volunteered to share their experience, both in the hospital and at home.





Child Cancer Smart

Child Cancer Smart was launched in August 2025 by CCLG: The Children & Young People's Cancer Association, based on research from the University of Nottingham. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer in children and young people among both the public and healthcare professionals.

It provides clinical guidelines and decision support tools for clinicians and clear guidance for the public on when to seek medical advice. It is based on evidence from the Childhood Cancer Diagnosis study, that showed that the time to diagnosis for CYP varied significantly by age and cancer type. Teenagers had a median time to diagnosis of 8.9 weeks. Bone tumours had a median time to diagnosis of 12.6 weeks. The campaign messages align with the countless stories we heard through our consultation process.

For parents, trusting your gut instinct if symptoms persist.

Could it be cancer? 3 persistent symptoms, 3 visits, or 3 weeks of unexplained symptoms. Pick up the phone.

If a child or teenager has had 3 persistent symptoms, or has visited their doctor 3 times, or has had 3 weeks of unexplained symptoms. It might be time to pick up the phone and make a referral to the local on-call paediatrician.

Cancer grows faster in children and teenagers than in adults, so the urgent suspected cancer pathway doesn't work. All symptoms should be considered carefully if they persist for 2 weeks or have no clear explanation, as they might indicate other more serious illnesses.

Cancer symptoms often appear together as clusters rather than on their own. In addition, children may also have unexplained fever, tiredness or weight loss.

Find out more at childcancersmart.org.uk

Leukaemia

- Pallor
- Spontaneous bleeding/bruising/petechiae
- Unexplained fever
- Bone/joint pain
- Persistent vomiting/fatigue

Bone tumours

- Bone swelling/lump
- Bone/joint pain
- Restricted arm/leg movement or limp
- Persistent back pain
- Numbness or weakness in legs or arms
- Incontinence of urine or stool
- Erectile dysfunction in teenagers

Neuroblastoma

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain
- Weight loss
- Weakness in legs
- Back pain
- Numbness in arms or legs
- Unexplained bruising around the eye
- Enlarging head/neck swelling
- Unexplained shortness of breath

Brain tumours

- Persistent headache
- Persistent recurrent/vomiting
- Blurred/double/loss of vision
- Abnormal eye movements
- Balancing/coordination/walking difficulties

Renal tumours

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain
- Rose coloured or red urine (blood)

Liver tumours

- Abdominal distension/lump with or without pain
- Jaundice (skin or sclera)

Lymphoma

- Weight loss
- Large and growing lymph nodes in neck, armpits or groin
- Abdominal mass/distension
- Drenching night sweats
- Unexplained fever
- Bone pain
- Unexplained shortness of breath

Soft tissue sarcoma

Soft tissue sarcomas can occur anywhere on the body.

- Unexplained lump with or without pain
- Unexplained swelling (legs, limbs, abdomen)
- Skin changes over the lump / swelling

Retinoblastoma

- Leucocoria
- Squint/biobsonal eye movements
- Reduced vision/loss of vision
- Protruding/enlarging eye

Germ cell tumour

- Lump/swelling in testicle, breast, groin
- Abdominal distension (with or without pain)
- Early signs of puberty (before the age of 8 in girls, and 9 in boys) such as enlarging breasts, excess hair growth, starting periods

Something not right after two weeks? Trust your instincts - see a doctor.

Head and neck

- Persistent "headache"
- Persistent or recurrent vomiting
- Fits or seizures (not with a fever)
- Tilted head or head rotated at a strange angle (very neck or head tilt)
- Visibly increased head size (specific to children under two years)
- Large lump in head or neck swelling

Eyes

- White pupil (especially in photographs)
- Blurred/double vision or loss of vision
- Squint or abnormal eye movements
- Reduced or loss of vision
- Protruding or enlarged eye
- Unexplained bruising around the eye

Chest

- Large lump in armpit
- Unexplained shortness of breath
- Shortness of breath on lying flat

Skin and appearance

- Extremely pale
- Spontaneous bleeding or bruising
- Yellow skin and eyes
- Pinpoint rash
- Unexplained lump
- Skin changes over the lump/swelling

Non-specific symptoms

Alongside the above symptoms, a child might also have:

- Unexplained fever
- Recurrent/persistent infections
- Behaviour change, especially lack of energy (lethargy)
- Persistent worsening tiredness/fatigue
- Unexplained loss of appetite

Bones, joints and spine

- Bone swelling or lump
- Bone or joint pain
- Restricted arm or leg movement
- Unexplained limp
- Persistent back pain
- Numbness or weakness in legs or arms
- Balancing, co-ordination or walking difficulties

Abdomen

- Round, swollen abdomen (distension), with or without pain
- Rose coloured or red urine (blood)
- Large lump in groin
- Numbness or weakness in legs or arms
- Incontinence of urine or stool
- Erectile dysfunction in teenagers and young people

Growth and development

- Lump or swelling in the testicle, breast or groin
- Delay in development, e.g. walking or speaking
- Unexplained weight loss
- Early signs of puberty (before the age of 8 in girls and 9 in boys) such as enlarging breasts, excess hair growth, starting periods
- Delayed puberty (no signs of testicular development by 14 in boys, or breast development by 13 in girls)

For healthcare professionals, if you see three or more visits, three or more weeks of symptoms or three or more unexplained symptoms, think cancer.

The campaign will next focus on specific guidance and advice for young people.

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



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