

# Network NEWS

Working together to provide  
patient pathways for children  
with cancer

**Issue 12 July 2025**

## Overview

The NW CC ODN is mandated through NHS England; and hosted through Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) in partnership with Alder Hey via the Northwest Paediatrics Partnership board. There is joint Clinical Leadership from Professor Bernadette Brennan (Royal Manchester Children's Hospital) and Dr Lisa Howell (Alder Hey Children's Hospital). The ODN is accountable to NHSE specialised commissioning.

The NW CC ODN circulates a newsletter issue quarterly. The newsletter focuses on sharing successes, identifying learning opportunities and signposting you to the wider network resources.

Please contact  
[info.nwccodn@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:info.nwccodn@mft.nhs.uk)  
For further information.

## Social Media

Follow us on our Social Media  
Platforms @NWCCODN



Welcome to the latest edition of our quarterly newsletter. We're excited to share an overview of the ODN's recent projects.

## NW Children & Young People (CYP) Neuro-Oncology Study Day

### Background

The Neuro-Oncology Nurse Specialists across the 2 Principal Treatment Centres (Alder Hey Children's Hospital & Royal Manchester Children's Hospital) within the North West of England identified an educational opportunity within the Paediatric Neuro-Oncology specialty.

### Purpose

Enhance Multidisciplinary Knowledge; improve the understanding of the developments in the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term care of CYP with brain and spinal tumours, across all disciplines involved in their care.

- Highlight the Lived Experience; incorporate the experience of CYP and families to shape services and improve holistic care throughout the neuro-oncology pathway.
- Encourage Regional Interconnection; strengthen professional relationships across the region to ensure equitable access to high-quality care.
- Support Professional Development; offer continuing professional development (CPD) opportunity within the specialty that equip professionals with further practical knowledge, tools, and strategies to support children and young people living with neuro-oncological conditions.

**97 delegates attended and 16 speakers & lived experience reps.**

The Brain Tumour Charity attended as an exhibitor to showcase their services available and to link in with professionals across the region.

## SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group



It was a pleasure to support Dr Lisa Howell and the planning committee to deliver the SIOP Renal Tumour Study Group which was hosted in Liverpool on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th June 2025. Acknowledges across the sponsors were noted.

The meetings brought together delegates across continents who gathered to share a common purpose; discussions of care deliver, changing insights and research across borders. What truly stood out was the expertise and inspiration of each individual. Each presentation sparked discussion and was a powerful reminder of what happens when passionate professionals come together to share knowledge, experience and expertise. Thank you to Dr Lisa Howell, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist within Alder Hey Children's Hospital for welcoming the SIOP RTSG to Liverpool.



### About the survey

The Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey asks questions about NHS cancer or tumour care. The survey is sent to children under the age of 16 and their parents or carers who have recently had care at Principal Treatment Centres (PTCs) in England. Some children who are 16 years old may also be sent a survey if they received care within the past year as a 15 year old. Picker have been asked to run the survey by [NHS England](#).

Answers		PTC 1	PTC 2
Above national average %	%	17	14
Equal to national average %	%	4	3
Below national average (areas to review) %	%	24	28

\*45 questions in total



The Care Closer to Home Innovation & Service Development for Paediatric Oncology Services – Proof of Concept project aims to increase focus on the delivery of supportive care and chemotherapy closer to home, either in the home environment or via the Mobile Cancer care Unit at a location close to the patients home.

These specialist services will be delivered whilst maintaining safety and ensuring equity of access to specialist services. Project updates and involvement will come through the ODN working groups and via patient and family engagement.

**Please visit the care closer to home website for more information**

<https://www.nwchildrenscancerodn.nhs.uk/care-closer-to-home/>

**You can also view our care closer to home newsletters here**

<https://www.nwchildrenscancerodn.nhs.uk/news-events/news/>

## Play Provision

We would like to bring your attention to the below for interest and show recognition to Susan Fairclough's fantastic work across Play Provision!

Susan Fairclough has been working alongside NHSE, Starlight Foundation and the Society of Health Play Specialists (SoHPS) regarding the National Play Strategy – Play Well Tool Kit, for CYP in Healthcare. The Play Tool Kit was launched on 5th June and Sarah went to London to the event; joined by Duncan Burton, Chief Nursing Officer, NHS England was present and gave a presentation as well as Charlotte Fairall, CEO Sophie's Legacy ( Sophie; s mum) Tina Clegg - Chair of SoHPS and Cathy Gilman CEO of Starlight Foundation.

Please refer to the link for more details

[www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/play-well-guidelines-for-commissioning-and-designing-health-play-services/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/play-well-guidelines-for-commissioning-and-designing-health-play-services/)

Additionally, Susan has contributed to writing a book within the Textbook Childrens and Young Peoples Nursing (Chapter 30) which is titled Play for Children and Young People in Hospital and Health Care Settings. Susan has also contributed to:

- Play In Hospitals Real Life Perspectives (Chapter 11: Specialised Play in the Hospital Setting) & (Chapter 14 Working with Children and Young People with Autism in the Health Care Setting)



## POSCU Site Visits

The NWCCODN undertake yearly site visits to each of the NHS Providers within Childrens Cancer services in the North West region. The visits for 2025 have already commenced; and it has been a pleasure to have met with the 6 POSCU teams and we look forward to the other 3 which are in the diary. The visits are led by our Quality Improvement Lead nurse who includes a review of the development plans for Year 3 of the Self-Assessment programme of work (assurance / performance in line with Service Spec), discussion of key successes and escalation of any issues or support we can provide for innovation initiatives within Children's Cancer services. The visits are always extremely valuable and discussions are formed against the submitted POSCU Annual Reports. Thank you to the each colleague for their involvement in these important site visits and for their ongoing contributions across the network.



**Glan Clywd**



**Royal Preston**



**Blackpool Victoria**



**Gwynedd**



**Wrexham Maelor**

## POSCU Annual Reports

Thank you to all our POSCU clinicians and lead nurses who have submitted the annual report to the network for 2024/2025. The image on the left shows the content of the reports. The POSCU Annual Reports are vital in capturing the delivering of provision and caseload. These are reviewed by both the QI lead nurse within the ODN and the PTC Lead Clinician; further discussions are carried out in the POSCU Site Visits. It is acknowledged that these reports are time consuming however are a requirement of the providers to report back into the network. Thank you for your detailed reports and timely submission.

### Contents:

- POSCU Service Overview
- Key Achievements
- Key Challenges
- Activity and data summary
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Patient & Family Engagement focus
- Workforce & Education
- Objectives for future
- Other