

Network NEWS

Working together to provide
patient pathways for children
with cancer

Issue 13 October 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
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 work going on across the network!

Alder Hey Awards 2025

Congratulations to the staff on Ward 3B at Alder Hey! Congratulations to the staff on Ward 3B at Alder Hey for winning the Alder Hey Star Award. Here are a few reasons why the team were nominated. Ward 3B is an outstanding example of teamwork, compassion, and dedication in action. Every member of the team—from the consultants, ANPs, nurses, HCAs, and the ward chef—works tirelessly to provide the highest standard of care to children, young people, and their families. What truly sets them apart is their unity and commitment to going above and beyond, every single day.

Whether it's providing comfort during difficult moments, celebrating small milestones, or ensuring families feel supported and informed, the team on 3B consistently demonstrates empathy, professionalism, and kindness. Families often comment on how welcomed and reassured they feel thanks to the warm and inclusive atmosphere created by the team.

Ward 3B exemplifies what excellent care looks like, they truly deserve to be recognised as Stars!



A Transformational Build For



Thanks to the incredible generosity of BBC Children in Need and the team at DIY SOS, The Joshua Tree has undergone a remarkable transformation. The new build has created four counselling rooms, two complementary therapy rooms, a dedicated therapeutic play space, wraparound accessible gardens, a fully equipped gym, a vibrant teen space, and two overnight accommodation pods.

These new facilities mean we can support more families, from a wider geographical area, in more ways than ever before. Whether it's through counselling, play therapy, fitness and wellbeing, or short stays in our family pods, the expanded space enables us to provide tailored, holistic support for children and families affected by childhood cancers. We are also proud to have our dedicated **hub in North Wales**, based at Penrhos Manor, which provides a welcoming space for families across the region. From there, we can deliver counselling, therapeutic play, family support sessions, and community events, ensuring that Welsh families have access to the same high-quality, personalised support closer to home.

Alongside this, our outreach vehicle continues to play a vital role in bringing support directly into the heart of local communities. By reducing the need for families to travel long distances, it ensures that vital services are accessible, helping us to contribute to the Operational Delivery Network's mission of care closer to home.

Together, these exciting developments mean The Joshua Tree can walk alongside even more families throughout their cancer journey, offering the right support, in the right place, at the right time. Here is our family handbook to explain more <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/144629bed9.html>

For professional or families wanting to know more about The Joshua Tree, please get in touch via our website, [The Joshua Tree](#) or email familysupport@thejoshuatree.org.uk to arrange a visit.



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 are almost completed. We have met with a further 4 POSCU teams. 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.



Leighton



Nobles



Royal Blackburn



Royal Lancaster