NHS
North West
Teenage and Young Adult
Cancer Specialised Services
Clinical Network

North West Teenage and Young Adult Cancer Specialised Services Clinical Network

Annual Report: 2025-26

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The Right Care
in the Right Place
at the Right Time

Chair’s Foreword

This year, the North West Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Specialised Services Clinical Network has made clear progress, moving from coordination to actively driving improvement in cancer care for young people. The network addresses the unique needs of teenagers and young adults with cancer, striving for consistent, equitable access to specialised support and expertise across the region.

The new National Cancer Plan aligns closely with the network’s goals, focusing on reducing variation, strengthening care pathways, and improving survivorship and experience. Recent developments include more effective use of data to guide improvements and increased co-production with young people for practical service innovation.

Collaboration among partners remains central, enabling shared priorities and collective accountability in tackling complex challenges. Ultimately, the aim is to improve the lived experiences of young people and families, ensuring accessible, joined-up care and protecting opportunities for recovery and the future.

While progress is evident, there is a continued responsibility to embed improvement and deliver meaningful benefits for all young people. The ongoing commitment of colleagues, partners, and young people is essential in advancing this work.

Joan Spencer
Chief Executive
The Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
Chair TYA Network Oversight Group

Executive Summary

The North West Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Specialised Services Clinical Network has continued to evolve into a more connected, collaborative, and responsive system, with a clear focus on improving outcomes and experience for young people across the region.

Over the past year, the network has moved beyond establishing core structures towards a more embedded and consistent model of delivery, with stronger alignment across providers and a clearer understanding of variation. This has been supported by enhanced governance, improved connectivity between teams, and increasing confidence in how the system works collectively to deliver care.

A defining feature of this progress has been the network's ability to translate insight into action. The growing use of data and enhanced visibility of performance are enabling more focused and meaningful improvement, supporting a shift towards a more proactive and adaptive approach to service delivery.

At the same time, there has been a clear emphasis on co-production and innovation, with young people increasingly shaping service design and digital developments. This reflects a broader cultural shift towards more inclusive, responsive, and patient-centred care.

The network is equipped to meet the Cancer Plan's goals, with strong partnerships, governance, and delivery. The aim is now to scale this progress—ensuring consistency, reducing variation, and improving measurable impact. This evolving approach has led to more consistent results and better identification of effective improvements. The next section outlines key areas where these advances have produced clear benefits across the network.

Key Achievements 2025-26

PATIENT IMPACT

80 late effects patients identified as requiring **follow-up care,** improving access to survivorship services across the region

RECOGNITION

1 national CCLG Transforming **Care Award** received for Late Effects programme, recognising system-wide impact

SYSTEM VISIBILITY

1 regional programme **dashboard** implemented, significantly improving visibility, oversight, and risk management

PROVIDER ASSURANCE

13 Trusts engaged in full **pathway mapping & Assurance cycles,** enabling identification of variation and informing service improvement

DATA & DIGITAL

1 digital MDT process implemented and **1 TYA Dashboard** implemented - capturing key pathway insights

RESEARCH & INFRASTRUCTURE

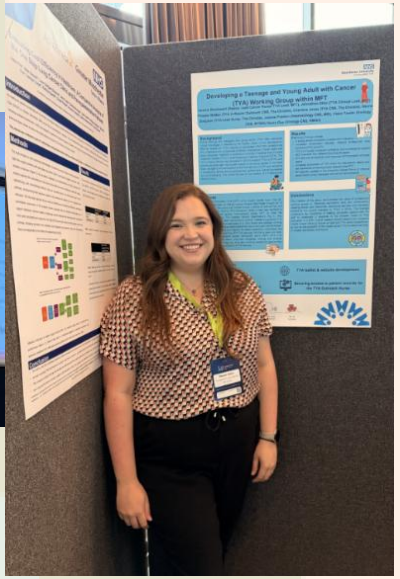
1 Tissue Bank Co-ordinator appointed, enabling expansion of tumour biobanking across the network

INNOVATION

1 AI-enabled patient chatbot being developed with **10** TYA patients, Cancer alliances - improving access to age-appropriate information

WORKFORCE COLLABORATION

100 delegates attended the NW CTYA Conference, strengthening regional capability and collaboration, with **89%** recommendation rate and overall satisfaction **4.7/5**



DELIVERY AGAINST NETWORK OBJECTIVES

System Impact View 2025-26

Genomics & Tissue Banking

Coordinator appointed; digital MDT; GLH alignment

Research & Trials

Baseline established;
MDT tools implemented in 1 PTC
On-going developments

Compliance & Oversight

Assurance model embedded;
TYA dashboard live

Patient & Public Voice

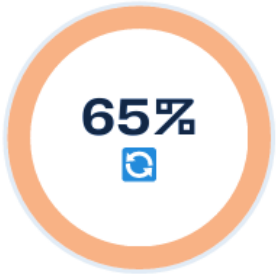
Co-production embedded in programmes

Workforce & Education

Training, events and resources delivered

Innovation & Impact

National recognition (CCLG award) for Late Effects Project
Best poster at CIC7 for AI model



Transition Pathways

Pathway mapping complete
Partnership working with NWCCODN

Fertility Pathways

Regional review completed
Work on-going to establish NW spoke sites

88% Delivery against all SMART Objectives

All objectives on track with clear forward plans for 2026-27

The network has delivered strongly against its 2025–26 programme, with 88% delivery against the programme, full progression across all workstreams, and a small proportion of complex priorities carrying forward.

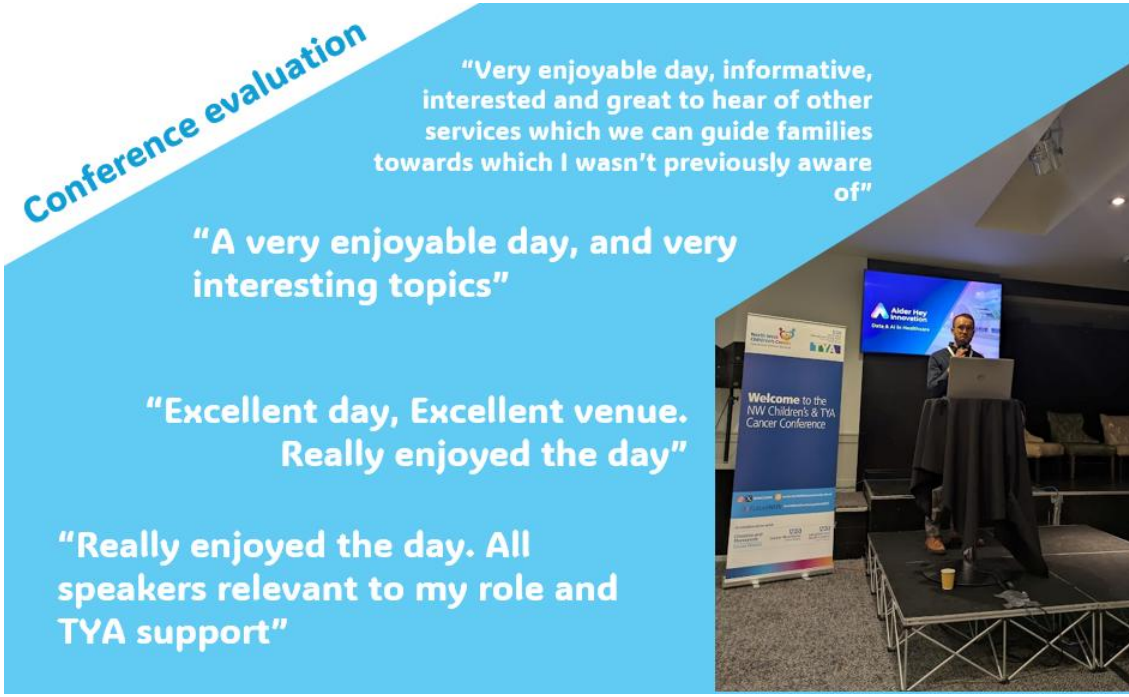
This level of delivery is now translating into clear system impact, with the majority of objectives embedded and strengthening consistency, oversight, and patient-centred care across the network.

North West Children's and TYA Conference 2026

Strengthening collaboration, learning and shared practice

The North West Children's and Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Conference continues to play a key role in bringing together professionals from across the region to share learning, strengthen relationships, and support the delivery of high-quality, age-appropriate cancer care.

Delivered in February 2026 in partnership with the Children's Network and regional partners, the conference reflected the growing maturity and ambition of the network. It provided a platform for clinicians, nurses, allied health professionals, and system partners to come together around a shared commitment to improving care and outcomes for young people.

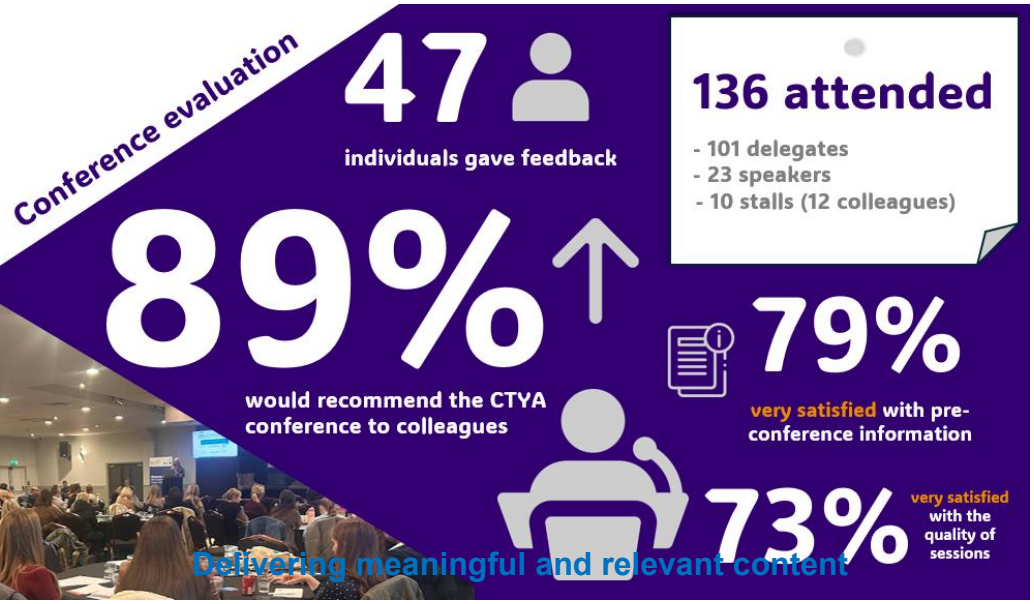


Strong engagement across the region

The conference was well attended, with **136 participants**, including **101 delegates, 23 speakers and representation from 10 organisations**.

Engagement extended beyond attendance, with **47 participants providing detailed feedback**, offering valuable insight into the quality and impact of the event.

This strong level of participation reflects both the relevance of the programme and the continued appetite for collaborative, network-led learning opportunities across the North West.



The conference programme was carefully designed to reflect current priorities across the Children's and TYA pathway, bringing together a diverse range of topics including:

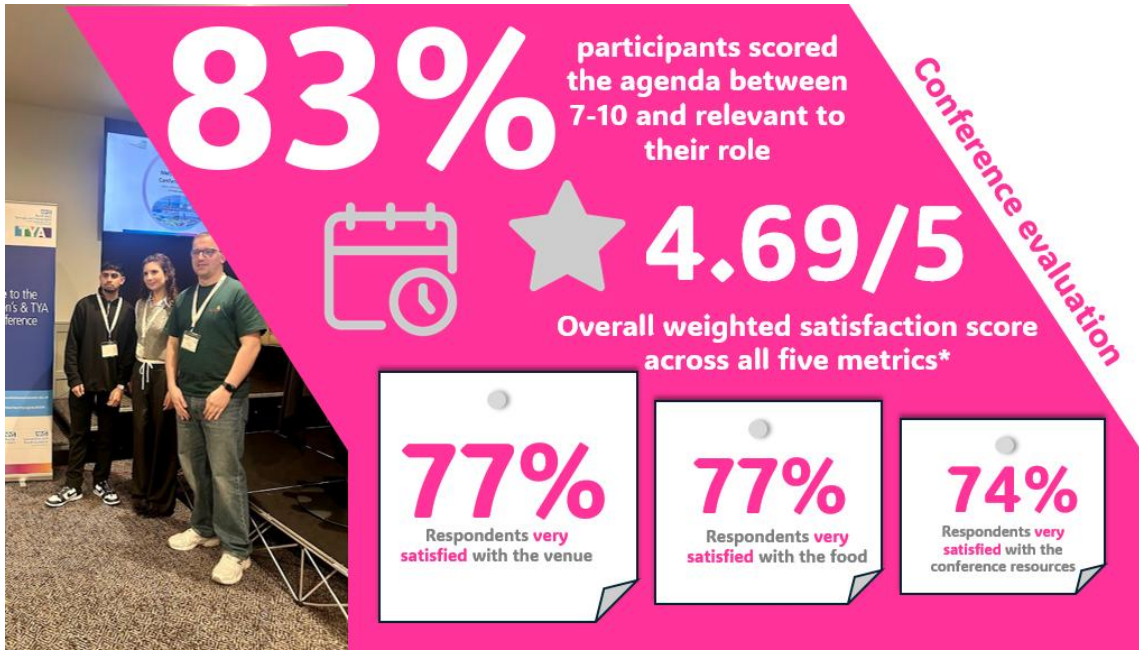
- Service provision and pathway development
- Patient experience and lived experience
- Advances in clinical practice
- The role of data and digital innovation in improving outcomes

Attendees consistently noted the relevance of sessions to their roles and the opportunity to gain insight into services and pathways beyond their own organisations. Feedback highlighted the importance of shared learning in enabling professionals to better navigate the wider system and support patients and families more effectively.

Looking Ahead

The success of the 2026 conference reinforces the importance of continued investment in regional education, engagement, and collaboration. Insights from the evaluation will inform the development of future events, ensuring that the programme continues to respond to emerging priorities and the evolving needs of the workforce.

As the network continues to strengthen its delivery and impact, initiatives such as this conference play a vital role in connecting people, sharing expertise, and building a consistent and high-quality approach to care for teenagers and young adults across the North West.



TYA Late Effects Programme – North West

Improving survivorship care through collaboration and innovation

The Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Late Effects Programme across the North West has been a significant area of focus for the network this year, demonstrating both the collective strength of regional collaboration and a clear commitment to improving long-term outcomes for young people living beyond cancer.

Delivered through the Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC6), the programme set out to better understand and address the needs of TYA patients experiencing late effects of cancer treatment, an area historically characterised by variability in access and limited visibility across systems.

Strengthening access to survivorship care

A key achievement of the programme has been the identification of **80 patients** across the region requiring follow-up care, many of whom had previously been outside of structured pathways. Through coordinated working across

80

PATIENTS RECEIVED FOLLOW UP CARE

Principal Treatment Centres and Designated Hospitals, these patients have now been supported to access appropriate late effects services, representing a significant step forward in addressing unmet need.

This work has not only improved individual patient pathways but has also strengthened understanding of the scale and nature of late effects across the region, providing a clearer foundation for future service planning.

"I can guarantee that I would not be alive today or in the place I am now, without the care and attention they gave me - with constant check-ups and conversation ensuring all my questions were answered. My oncologist has been talking about how he was looking to the future and monitoring my thyroid after the effects of my cancer".

Patient OM (2025) The Christie

A collaborative regional approach

The success of the programme has been underpinned by strong partnership working across the network, bringing together clinical teams, system partners, and patients to co-design solutions.

Working through established governance structures and collaborative forums, the programme has enabled:

- Greater alignment of late effects pathways across providers
- Improved communication between services
- Increased awareness of survivorship needs within TYA care

The approach reflects the growing maturity of the network, moving beyond individual initiatives to coordinated, system-wide improvement.

Embedding patient voice and co-production

Central to the programme has been a commitment to embedding the voice of young people within service development. Through engagement activities and co-production approaches, patients have directly informed the design and direction of the work, ensuring that improvements are meaningful, relevant, and responsive to lived experience.

This has supported a more holistic understanding of survivorship, recognising not only clinical follow-up needs but also the broader impact of late effects on quality of life.

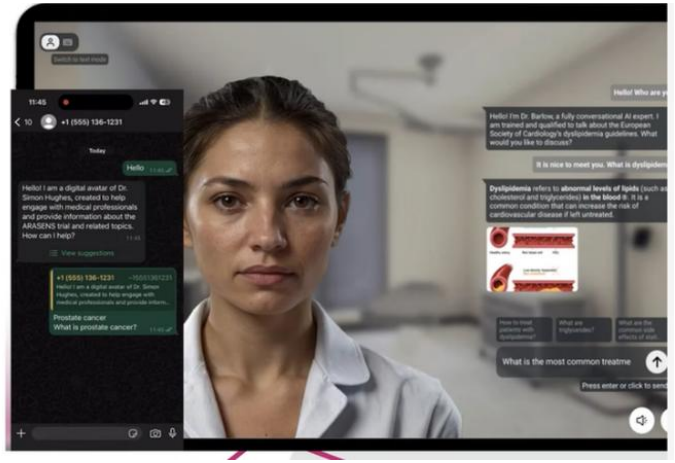
Recognition of impact

The impact of the Late Effects Programme has been recognised nationally through the award of the **Children's and Young People Cancer Association (CCLG) Transforming Care Award**, reflecting the strength of collaborative working and the tangible improvements delivered for TYA patients

Looking ahead

Building on this progress, the network will continue to focus on strengthening and embedding late effects pathways, ensuring that all TYA patients have equitable access to appropriate follow-up care. The insights gained through this programme will inform future work on survivorship, data capture, and pathway development, supporting a more consistent and proactive approach across the region.

Thank you to our partner Trusts, Patient Experience Leads, and the Cancer Improvement Collaborative Team for their support in delivering this work and improving care for patients across the region.



The Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC7) AI Project

The Network is celebrating national recognition after being selected as one of only a small number of teams nationally to participate in the prestigious NHS England Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC7) programme, before going on to receive the Project Best Poster award at the programme's national celebration event, held in London in May 2026.

The Cancer Improvement Collaborative (CIC) celebration event brought together healthcare teams from across the country to showcase innovation, share learning, and recognise excellence in cancer service improvement. For the North West TYA Network, selection to CIC7 represented a significant national endorsement of its commitment to collaborative, patient-centred service development. This achievement was further recognised through the award of Project Best Poster, reflecting the quality, innovation and impact of the team's work.

CIC7 is the latest national cohort of the Cancer Improvement Collaborative, supporting multidisciplinary teams to design, test and implement innovative approaches that improve cancer services and deliver meaningful, sustainable benefits for patients.

The North West TYA Network's project focused on the development of an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered digital companion designed specifically to support teenagers and young adults living with cancer.

A model of regional collaboration

The initiative was led by Laura Bayliff, who provided strategic leadership and a dedicated TYA perspective throughout the programme.

Working in close partnership with Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, who are leading a wider AI development programme for adult cancer services, we were selected to develop a **specialist chatbot for teenagers and young adults with cancer**. This focus is essential because young people often face complex **psychosocial challenges** alongside their medical treatment, including questions around sexual wellness, identity, relationships and body image. These are areas where they frequently feel unsure, embarrassed or unable to ask for support.

By designing an AI tool specifically for them, we're helping ensure their unique experiences, priorities and support needs stay at the centre of cancer care, giving them a safe, accessible space to explore the things that matter most to

them. The project represents an exemplar of regional collaboration, bringing together expertise and shared ambition from across Greater Manchester, Cheshire and Merseyside, and the wider North West TYA Network.

It also builds on GMCA's established partnership with Recourse AI, enabling the team to utilise existing digital infrastructure, proven expertise and trusted relationships to accelerate development and maximise impact.

Placing young people at the centre of innovation

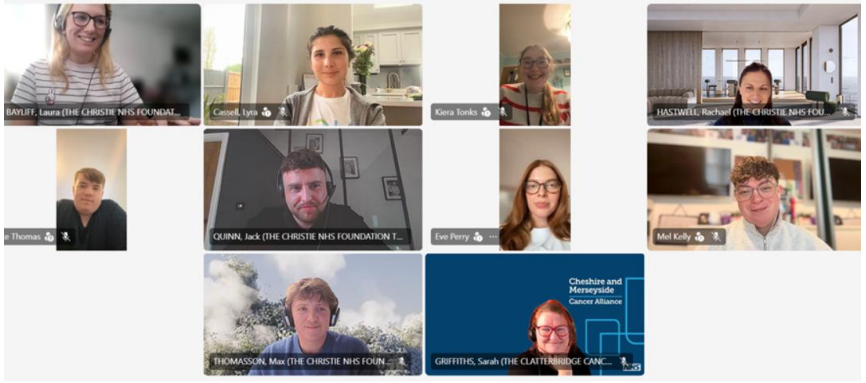
A defining strength of the project has been the meaningful and sustained involvement of young people throughout every stage of development.

Nine teenage and young adult cancer patients were recruited as active members of the project team, working alongside clinicians and system leaders to co-design the digital solution.

Through early focus group work, participants identified key challenges including anxiety, isolation, unmet emotional needs, and a clear preference for immediate, accessible digital support. Their insight directly informed the project's direction and continues to shape its ongoing development.

This commitment to genuine co-production was powerfully demonstrated at the national celebration event in London in May 2026, where patient representatives Eve, Adil and Lyra shared their personal experiences and reflected on the importance of creating services with—not simply for—young people.

Their contributions brought authenticity and humanity to the project, underlining the importance of patient voice in shaping modern healthcare services.



Addressing inequalities in access to support

The project was developed in response to a recognised challenge: variation in the information and support available to TYA cancer patients across the North West.

Differences in resources and service models across treatment centres can create inequalities in access, while many young people increasingly turn to digital platforms, including social media and AI tools for support, often without the reassurance of clinically validated information.

The AI digital companion has been designed to address this gap by providing a consistent, trusted and accessible source of information and emotional support for all TYA patients across the region.

Safety and governance at the heart of the project

Robust clinical governance and patient safety have been fundamental from the outset.

Development has been aligned with GMCA's established governance frameworks and NHS standards, with safeguards including:

- clinically validated and regularly reviewed content
- clearly defined escalation pathways to clinical teams
- safeguards to prevent over-reliance on AI
- strong data privacy and GDPR compliance
- ongoing monitoring to ensure accuracy, fairness and emotional appropriateness

Oversight is provided through North West TYA Network governance structures, with additional assurance from Recourse AI's expertise in patient safety and regulatory compliance.

Looking ahead

The celebration event in London in May 2026 provided an opportunity not only to reflect on progress, but also to celebrate innovation and share learning with teams from across the country.

For the North West TYA Network, being selected for CIC7 and subsequently awarded **Project Best Poster** marks a significant milestone in its ongoing commitment to patient-centred innovation and reducing inequalities in care.

As the programme concludes, the team is now progressing into testing and pilot phases, with ambitions to scale the AI digital companion across the North West—and ultimately beyond—helping to transform the care experience of young people living with cancer for years to come.

Working in close partnership with Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, who are leading a wider AI development programme for adult cancer services—we were selected to develop a **first-of-its-kind AI chatbot specifically for teenagers and young adults with cancer**. This focus matters because young people often face complex psychosocial challenges alongside treatment, including sexual wellness, identity, relationships and body image. These are sensitive areas where many feel unsure, embarrassed or unable to ask for support, yet they have a huge impact on confidence, wellbeing and overall quality of life.

The impact of this work ensures that young people finally have access to a safe, age-appropriate, clinically-vetted digital space where they can explore the questions that matter most to them—privately, honestly and in their own time. It helps reduce isolation, improves access to reliable information, and empowers them to have more meaningful conversations with their care teams.

By 2027, we will have:

- **Developed and tested a clinically-vetted AI technology**, the first of its kind in the UK for young people with cancer
- **Made it available to patients across Greater Manchester**, integrated into existing cancer pathways
- **Used real patient feedback throughout the design**, ensuring the tool reflects lived experience, not assumptions
- **Prepared for wider piloting and national rollout**, based on evidence of safety, usability and impact

In short, this project is not just building a chatbot, it's reshaping how young people access psychosocial support, making sure their voices, identities and experiences are at the heart of future cancer care.

The North West TYA Network extends its sincere thanks to Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance, Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance, and key contributors Max Thomasson, Jack Quinn, Molly Pipping, Rachael Hastwell, Sarah Griffiths and Franki Sefton for their support, expertise and collaboration in delivering this important work

Whole Genome Sequencing and Tumour Biobanking

Strengthening research, data, and future-ready care across the North West

The development of **Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS)** and **tumour biobanking** continues to be a key priority for the North West Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Cancer Network. Over the past year, significant progress has been made in strengthening regional infrastructure, improving collaboration, and preparing the network for the continued integration of genomics into routine clinical care.

Led by the network in partnership with regional clinical leaders and research teams, this programme reflects a growing maturity in how the system supports research, innovation and data-driven improvement.

What we are doing

A major milestone has been the successful appointment of a **Tissue Bank Co-ordinator**, strengthening dedicated capacity to support the rollout of tumour biobanking across the region.

Work is now underway to **extend access to tissue banking across additional Trusts**, with early engagement already established. Local preparation is in progress to initiate consent pathways with network support. The development and sharing of standardised documentation and “letters of access” has supported a more consistent and structured approach across providers.

The programme has moved beyond planning into delivery, with clear progress in embedding practical processes to support **patient identification, consent and sample collection**. The development of an agreed process flow has provided clarity for clinical teams, ensuring that appropriate systems and documentation are in place to support safe and efficient recruitment into biobanking pathways.

In parallel, clinical and diagnostic pathways have been strengthened through collaboration with regional genomics teams, including support for local approaches to sample handling and preparation. This ensures alignment with evolving national standards and supports readiness for future developments in WGS delivery.

Collaboration has been central to the success of the programme. Strong working relationships with the **North West Genomic Laboratory Hub** and regional research governance teams have enabled access to performance data and supported the development of shared approaches to monitoring and evaluation.

Key importance of our work

This work is essential because genomics is rapidly becoming central to personalised cancer care. For young people, this means earlier access to more precise diagnostics, better-targeted treatments and increased opportunities to contribute to research that shapes future therapies.

Strengthening tumour biobanking and WGS pathways ensures:

- **Equitable access** to cutting-edge diagnostics across the region
- **Higher-quality samples and data**, improving research potential
- **More informed clinical decision-making**
- **A future-ready system** that can adapt as genomic technologies evolve

This programme ensures that young people in the North West are not left behind as national genomic ambitions accelerate.

Impact so far

The programme has achieved **90% completion** against its annual objectives, demonstrating strong delivery and effective programme management. Key areas including workforce establishment, governance and regional rollout planning, have been fully delivered, with remaining work focused on embedding and expansion.

Progress in accessing genomic data at a regional level has improved visibility, and ongoing work aims to enhance data granularity so insights can be translated into meaningful service improvement.

SMART objective: By 2027 we will have…

- **Established equitable access** to tumour biobanking across all eligible providers in the North West TYA Network
- **Fully embedded regional pathways** for WGS and biobanking, aligned with national genomic standards
- **Strengthened data capture and performance reporting**, enabling meaningful insights and continuous improvement
- **Created a sustainable regional infrastructure** that supports research, innovation and personalised care

In summary

This programme is not just improving processes, it is building a **future-ready genomic ecosystem** where every young person in the North West can benefit from advances in research, diagnostics and personalised cancer treatment. The foundations now in place ensure the region can respond proactively to national developments and deliver high-quality, equitable genomic care for years to come.

STAFF COMPLETED TRAINING NEEDS ANALYSIS

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Education and Workforce

Building capability, consistency, and collaboration across the North West

Developing a skilled, confident, and connected workforce remains central to the delivery of high-quality Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) cancer care across the North West. Over the past year, the Education and Workforce programme has made strong progress in strengthening regional capability, improving access to learning, and creating a more consistent and collaborative approach to workforce development.

Led by the North West TYA Network in partnership with clinical and education leads, this programme reflects a clear commitment to supporting the workforce to meet both current service demands and future system priorities.

Strengthening workforce insight and direction

A key achievement has been the completion of a **regional Training Needs Analysis (TNA)**, engaging over 60 staff across the network. This work has provided valuable insight into workforce capability, identifying key themes and priorities to inform a targeted and responsive education offer.

The findings have supported a more structured and evidence-based approach to workforce development, enabling the network to move beyond ad hoc training provision to a more strategic and coordinated model focusing on the training available and accessible to all the staff caring for TYA patients.

Delivering at scale

The programme has demonstrated strong progress, with **100%** delivery of key planned objectives by Q4, reflecting effective coordination and engagement across the network.

Importantly, there are no risks requiring escalation, demonstrating stability in delivery and strong alignment with workforce priorities across the region.

Looking ahead

Building on this progress, the next phase of the programme will focus on further embedding the outputs of the Training Needs Analysis, expanding digital learning opportunities, and strengthening system-wide consistency in education provision.

As services continue to evolve, investment in workforce capability will remain critical. The foundations established this year position the network to support a confident, skilled, and connected workforce, ensuring that young people across the North West receive high-quality, age-appropriate care.

Pillars of TYA Workforce Development

These recommendations were shaped through a series of **education workshops** with teams from across the region. Colleagues shared what works, where gaps remain, and what support would make the biggest difference. The themes were consistent: a need for strong foundational TYA training, protected time to learn, better promotion of existing resources, clearer system coordination and targeted development for specialist roles.

This table brings together the priorities identified collectively and reflects what staff told us they need to deliver high-quality, age-appropriate care for young people.

1. Foundational TYA Education	2. Protected Learning Time	3. Promote Free Core Training (CCLG)	4. Strengthen System Coordination	5. Develop Advanced Skills (Targeted)
WHAT: Provide baseline training for all staff	**WHAT:** Embed time for training in job plans	**WHAT:** System-wide promotion of existing resources	**WHAT:** Use Alliance meetings for oversight and alignment	**WHAT:** Communication and leadership training
WHY: Current knowledge is inconsistent	**WHY:** Biggest barrier identified in TNA	**WHY:** Low awareness and usage	**WHY:** Current approach is fragmented	**WHY:** Needed for high-contact roles
OUTCOME: Safe, standardised care across system	**OUTCOME:** Increased training uptake and capability	**OUTCOME:** Rapid improvement in baseline knowledge	**OUTCOME:** Consistent workforce development	**OUTCOME:** Improved patient experience and staff retention

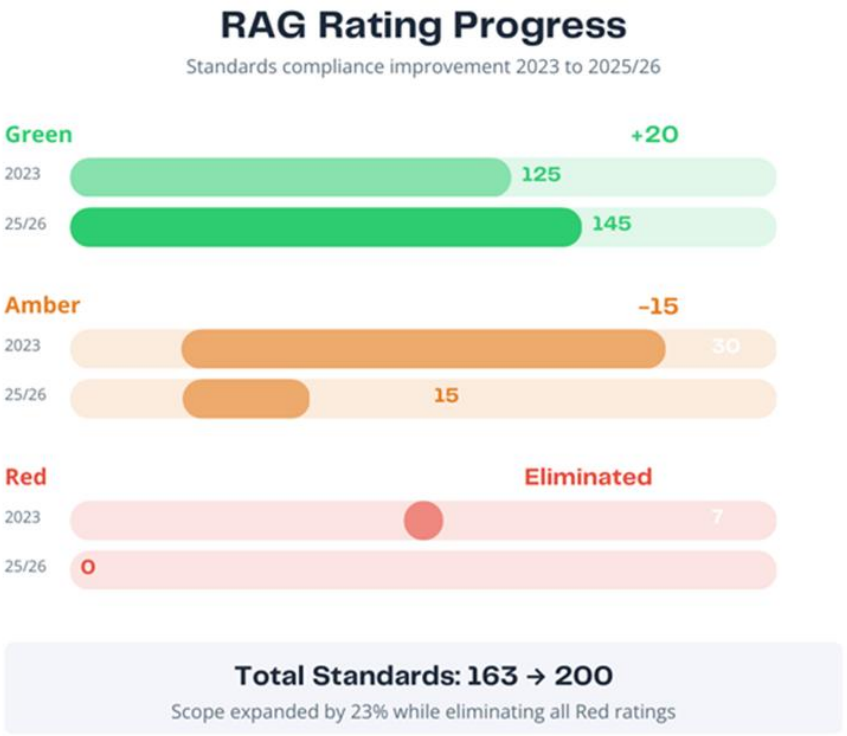
Network Compliance Against Service Specification Standards

Over the past year, the network has demonstrated **significant and measurable improvement in compliance against the TYA Service Specification**, within its two Principal Treatment Centres - with progress evident across both performance and system maturity.

The number of standards rated as fully compliant (Green) has increased from **125 to 145**, while areas requiring improvement (Amber) have reduced by half, from **30 to 15**. Most notably, all areas previously identified as high risk (Red) have now been eliminated entirely. This improvement has been achieved alongside an expansion in scope, with the total number of standards assessed increasing from **163 to 200**, reflecting a more comprehensive and robust approach to assurance.

These results represent more than process improvement alone. They demonstrate stronger collaboration between Principal Treatment Centres and Designated Hospitals, increased consistency in clinical pathways, and greater transparency of performance across the network. There is now clearer accountability and a more coordinated approach to delivering care, underpinned by shared ownership of standards.

The network model continues to perform effectively. Through established MDT oversight and strengthened in-reach and outreach arrangements, patients are able to access specialist expertise regardless of where they are treated. This remains a key strength of the system and supports equitable access to high-quality care across the region.



While some areas of challenge remain—notably in transition pathways, data maturity and workforce capacity—these are now clearly defined and actively managed within the network's forward plan. **These areas form key priorities for 2026–27,** with Principal Treatment Centres working alongside the Network to strengthen compliance against the national service specification standards. This marks a shift towards a more proactive, improvement-focused system where gaps are not only identified but systematically addressed to ensure consistent, high-quality care for young people across the region.

Overall, the network is in a **strong and improving position**, characterised by increased compliance, reduced risk, and a clear trajectory towards consistent, high-quality care.

Designated Hospital – Maturity

The network continues to demonstrate clear and sustained improvement, with two key areas of progress standing out.

Core delivery now embedded and consistent

Clinical pathways and MDT working are now fully established across all Trusts, representing a major achievement. These functions are reliable, standardised and integral to routine care. Governance and assurance processes are equally strong, ensuring oversight and consistency across the region. Patient-centred care has advanced significantly, with improvements in fertility, consent and patient involvement, reflecting a shift toward more proactive, high-quality care.

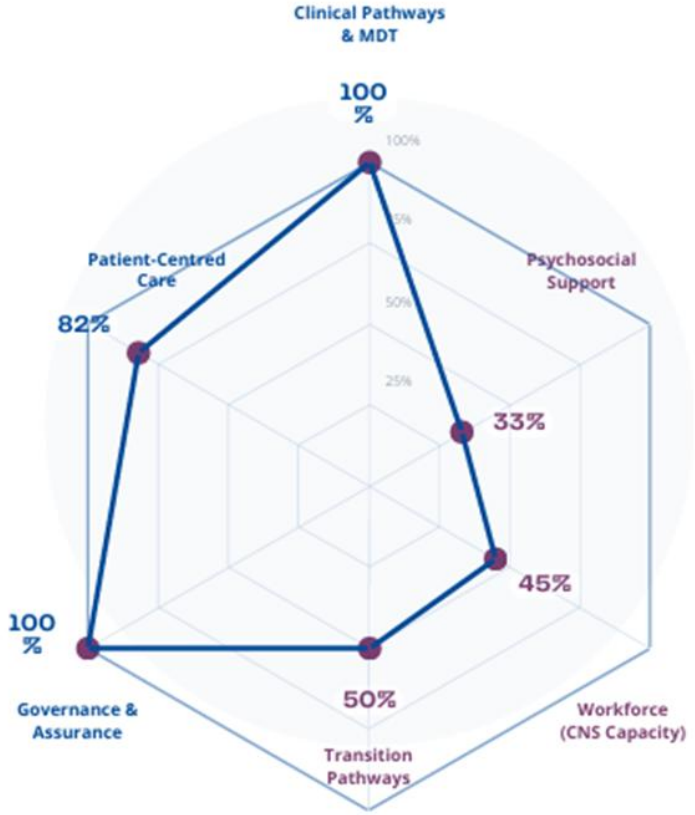
Targeted challenges requiring system-wide solutions

Progress remains more complex in workforce capacity and psychosocial support, where development is constrained by wider system pressures. Transition pathways show steady improvement but are not yet consistent across all organisations, highlighting the need for coordinated cross-service working.

These challenges are not due to lack of engagement. The network continues to work closely with all providers, including those with smaller TYA patient volumes, to ensure safe, consistent care through:

- **Strong regional MDT** oversight
- **Established in-reach and outreach** support from the Principal Treatment Centre
- **Targeted initiatives** to reduce variation and strengthen local capability

These collaborative models are proving effective and will continue to evolve as part of the network's commitment to equitable, high-quality care for young people across the North West.



Network Collaboration and Regional & National Engagement

Engagement with regional and national programmes and events has been a key strength of the network over the past year, providing valuable opportunities to showcase innovation, share learning, and strengthen partnerships across the cancer system. A number of teams from across the region have contributed to these events, demonstrating the breadth of work taking place across the network and reinforcing a strong culture of collaboration and shared learning.

At the **Greater Manchester Cancer Conference**, the network had a strong presence as an exhibitor. The exhibition stand provided an opportunity to engage directly with stakeholders, share key developments, and raise awareness of the TYA network's role and impact across the region. Contributions from the **Greater Manchester In-Reach/Outreach team** were a particular highlight, with abstracts presented that showcased innovative approaches to care delivery and service improvement. These contributions demonstrated the strength of local leadership and the ability to translate network priorities into meaningful, place-based improvement.

The **Greater Manchester Genomics Conference** provided a further platform to present a network-led abstract and poster, highlighting progress in genomics and the collaborative approach being taken to embed research and innovation within clinical pathways. This reinforced the network's role in supporting system-wide advancement and the integration of new models of care.

At a national level, the network was also represented at the **Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG) conference**, where multiple teams showcased work across data and digital transformation, palliative care, and late effects. In addition, the North West TYA ODN facilitated a dedicated session bringing together national Operational Delivery Networks. This created a valuable space for shared learning, collaboration, and discussion of common challenges and opportunities. The session was well received and highlighted the growing importance of collective working across networks. There is now an opportunity to build on this by developing a more formalised platform at future events, supporting the ambitions of the **Cancer Delivery Plan** and enabling wider sharing of network impact and delivery models.

Collectively, these engagements have strengthened the network's **regional and national visibility and influence**, positioning the North West as a leading example of collaborative working and innovation. Importantly, they have created opportunities to share best practice, build new partnerships, and generate ideas that continue to inform programme delivery.

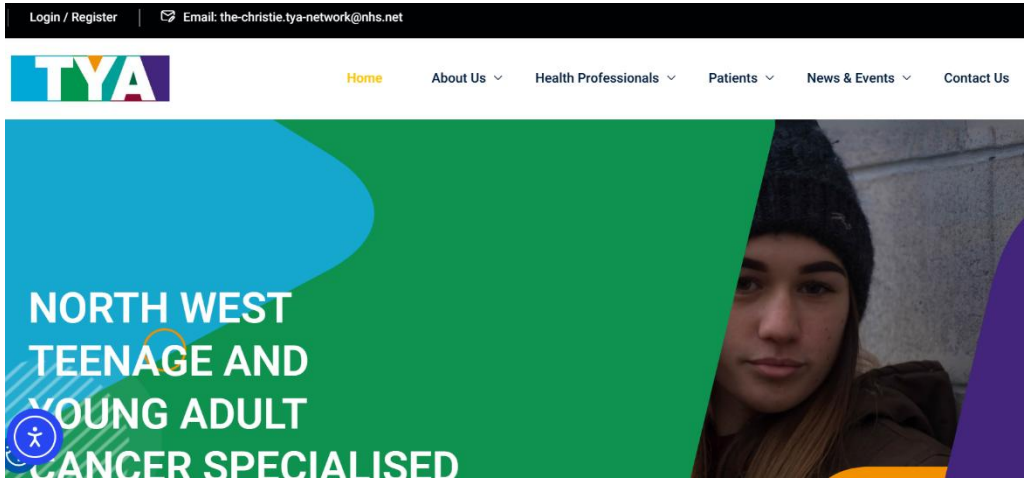
Network Communications

Over the past year, the network has delivered a step change in its communications and engagement approach, with a clear focus on improving visibility, accessibility, and system-wide connection. This has significantly improved visibility of the network's work, strengthened stakeholder engagement, and ensured more consistent communication across providers

A key milestone has been the launch of the regional **TYA website**, providing an accessible platform for sharing information, resources, and updates. This has improved transparency and supported a more consistent approach to communication across providers. In parallel, the development of a **LinkedIn** presence has expanded the network's digital reach, enabling wider dissemination of achievements and strengthening engagement with regional and national stakeholders.

Engagement has also been supported through surveys, polls, and targeted communications**,** enabling the network to gather timely insight and respond more effectively to workforce and stakeholder feedback. Complementing this, the use of visual materials such as posters has supported local awareness and consistency of messaging across services.

Collectively, these developments represent a clear step forward in the network's visibility, reach, and influence. Communications are now firmly established as a core enabler of delivery, supporting engagement, transparency, and system-wide connection. The focus moving forward is on embedding this approach, ensuring sustained engagement, effective use of digital platforms, and ongoing alignment with programme priorities.



Key Challenges

While the network has made strong progress over the past year, a number of system-wide challenges remain**,** reflecting the complexity of delivering TYA care across a diverse and evolving system.

Variation in access to key services continues to be an area of focus, particularly in **fertility preservation** and **transition pathways**. While network-wide pathway mapping has significantly improved understanding of current provision, access remains inconsistent across providers. Addressing this variation will require the development of more equitable, system-wide models of care. We will address this by hosting patient focused sessions to understand patient experience alongside workshops to explore clinical considerations with Children's services.

Fertility preservation is being led regionally by the ICBs, with discussions underway to strengthen the TYA-specific pathway, ensuring young people have clear referral criteria and access treatment in an age-appropriate environment.

A major area of progress this year has been the transformation of data and digital capability, including the introduction of a regional data dashboard and enhanced digital MDT processes. These developments represent a significant step forward, improving visibility of activity and performance across the system and supporting more informed, collective decision-making.

However, further work is required to ensure that this capability is fully embedded and consistently utilised across all providers. Variability in data quality, completeness and integration, particularly in relation to **research and trial** activity continues to limit the ability to derive fully comprehensive, real-time insight at a system level. Strengthening data maturity remains a key priority, and this will be supported by the **PTC data integration project**, which will bring together all TYA-specific measures (including access to trials, whole genomic sequencing, fertility, workforce, education access and MDT activity) into a single, coherent dataset.

Workforce capacity and sustainability continue to present challenges across several areas of delivery. While capability has been strengthened through education and development initiatives, wider system pressures impact the ability to maintain consistent capacity across providers. Work is underway with Teenage Cancer Trust to review the CNS workforce capacity across the region.

How we will address these challenges (SMART commitments for 2026–27)

By March 2027, we will:

- **Strengthen the TYA fertility preservation pathway** by working with ICBs to agree clear referral criteria, age-appropriate treatment pathways and consistent access across all providers.
- **Reduce variation in transition pathways** delivered through joint workshops with the Children's Network, including defined responsibilities, standardised handover processes, and consistent patient-facing information, with agreed actions embedded across providers.
- **Improve data maturity across the region** through the PTC data integration project, ensuring all TYA-specific measures (trials, whole genomic sequencing, fertility, workforce, education access, MDT activity) are captured consistently and reported quarterly.
- **Strengthen workforce sustainability** by developing a regional workforce plan, expanding access to education and training, and implementing Teenage Cancer Trust outreach roles to support providers across the region.
- **Improve compliance with the national TYA service specification** through structured self-assessment, targeted improvement support and quarterly monitoring led jointly by the network and PTCs.

In summary

The challenges facing the system are clear, but so is the plan to address them. Through targeted action, shared accountability and strong partnership between the network, specialised commissioning and ICBs, Teenage Cancer Trust and Principal Treatment Centres, the region is moving towards a more **consistent, equitable** and future-ready model of TYA cancer care.

Looking Ahead / Priorities for 2026-27

TYA Programme SMART Objectives and Measures

Area	Project	SMART Objective (Clear outcome)	Measures / KPIs (How success is tracked)	Delivery Date
Genomics & Tissue Banking	Tissue Banking Network Coordinator Development	Appoint Network-wide Coordinator and establish a coordinated tissue banking model across designated hospitals, enabling equitable access to genomic testing	Increase tissue bank sample collection from 0% to ≥70% of eligible patients, supported by full site readiness and coordinated delivery of 100% of sites.	Apr 2027
	Genomics Uptake Monitoring	Establish consistent regional oversight of genomic testing access and variation	Implement bi-monthly regional reporting and agree actions to address variation in access and uptake	Nov 2026
	RNA Pilot Feasibility	Assess and define feasibility of introducing RNA-based pathways within TYA services	Agree approved RNA pilot scope with Regional WGS Group, including defined pathway, participating sites and evaluation criteria	May 2027
TYA Assurance, Data & Pathways	MDT KPI Visibility	Establish MDT performance dashboards aligned to TYA service specification standards	Implement MDT dashboards across two PTCs, achieving ≥90% data completeness and embedding quarterly performance review and improvement cycles	Dec 2026
	COSD Data Alignment	Improve completeness and quality of TYA data within COSD datasets	Deliver COSD gap analysis across PTCs, with clear, time-bound improvement plans agreed and tracked for all identified data gaps	Jan 2027
	Travel Burden & Inequality Analysis	Understand and quantify variation in access to services across the region	Publish regional travel analysis identifying inequity hotspots and agree ≥3 targeted actions to improve access and reduce variation	Feb 2027
	Palliative Care Gap Analysis	Establish a clear system-wide understanding of palliative care provision and variation	Deliver published regional service analysis mapping provision and identifying inequity, with ≥2 agreed system-wide actions to improve integration and access	Mar 2027

	End of Treatment Summaries (EoTS)	Improve consistency and quality of EoTS across all providers	Review EoTS documentation across all TYA providers, supported by improvement plan	Jun 2027
	Fertility Pathway Development & System Alignment	Work with ICB and partners to establish a consistent hub-and-spoke fertility model for TYA patients	Secure agreement of a regional fertility model defining hub-and-spoke roles, referral pathways and access standards, with clear system actions to improve equitable access to age-appropriate care	Oct 2026
Research & Trials	Increase Trial Approaches	Increase TYA trial approaches through MDT prompts and tracking	Achieve ≥90% MDT cases with documented trial consideration through improved interoperability and use of trial visibility tools, with routine monitoring of approach and conversion rates	Dec 2026
	National Trial Connectivity	Develop robust, proactive partnerships with national TYA trial groups	Establish formal, active links with national TYA trial groups, participate in ≥4 national meetings or collaborative forums per year, and implement annual benchmarking to identify service improvements	Mar 2027
	Remove Research Barriers	Identify and address system-level barriers to TYA trial access and participation	Deliver a regional improvement plan and implement ≥2 priority changes, demonstrating reduced delays in trial approach or consent pathways	May 2027
Transition	Transition (Children ↔ TYA ↔ Adult)	Assess and improve consistency of transition pathways across the region in collaboration with Children's Network	Work with the Children's ODN to complete the annual transition audit and deliver workshops aligned to the priority areas identified, with PTCs ensuring the ongoing delivery of transition evenings.	Dec 2026
Communications & Engagement	TYA AI Chatbot	Develop and launch a co-produced AI-enabled psychosocial support tool for TYA patients	Deliver pilot AI chatbot, achieving ≥80% stakeholder engagement and demonstrating improved access to age-appropriate information and support	Dec 2026
	Early Diagnosis Campaign	Deliver targeted regional awareness activity to support earlier diagnosis	Deliver at least one regional campaign with defined reach and partner engagement, supported by evaluation and learning outputs	Apr 2027

	NW CTYA Conference	Deliver regional conference to enable system learning and collaboration	Deliver conference with ≥130 delegates and ≥85% satisfaction, with outputs and agreed actions published within 3 months	Mar 2027
Education & Workforce	Training Needs Analysis (TNA)	Publish a system-wide workforce action plan based on TNA findings	Publish TNA action plan, outlining delivery against key recommendations	Sept 2026
	Improved Education uptake for TYA training modules	Improve access to and uptake of TYA education across the network through coordinated system approach	Improve provider access to TYA specific modules by centralising materials for TYA (website, hub), demonstrating consistency of learning opportunities >75% of providers	Mar 2027
Equity, Sex & Gender Inclusion in TYA Cancer Care	Sex, Gender & Inclusion Recording Standards	Complete a region-wide review of sex, gender and inclusion recording by mapping current practices across all TYA providers	Undertake baseline mapping and variation analysis agreeing standards with clinical, digital, EDI and TYA leads	June 2027

Financial Overview

The TYA Network closed the 2025/26 financial year with an **underspend of £30,059** against a total **income of £242,330**, reflecting the timing of planned investment rather than reduced delivery. This variance is primarily due to the delayed recruitment of the Tissue Bank role, with associated costs profiled into 2026/27 to ensure full-year impact once established.

Overall, the position demonstrates strong financial stewardship, with resources aligned to strategic priorities and a managed carry-forward to support delivery in the next financial year.

TYA 2025/26 Month 12	£ YTD 25/26 Plan	£ YTD 25/26 Actual	£ YTD 25/26 Variance
Income from NHSE	£ 182,867	£ 182,867	£ -
Income from other sources (recurrent)	£ -	£ -	£ -
Income from other sources (non-recurrent)	£ -	£ -	£ -
Underspend from previous financial year (if applicable)	£ 59,463	£ 59,463	£ -
Total income	**£ 242,330**	**£ 242,330**	**£ -**
Costs - pay (please detail in the following slide)	£ 171,832	£ 171,832	£ -
Costs – non-pay	£ 40,439	£ 40,439	£ -
Total costs	**£ 212,271**	**£ 212,271**	**£ -**
Income less costs (overspend shown as negative, underspend as positive)	**£ 30,059**	**£ 30,059**	**£ -**

Reflections on Delivery and System Impact

From a programme perspective, this year has marked a significant shift in how the network operates and delivers improvement. What stands out is not just the scale of activity delivered, but the tangible progress made in strengthening how the system works together. With **88%** of SMART objectives delivered or on track**,** the programme has moved beyond planning into implementation, with clear evidence of change across pathways, data, and patient experience.

One of the most notable developments has been the strengthening of collective ownership across the network. There is now a clearer sense that this is a genuinely shared system rather than a collection of individual organisational efforts. This is demonstrated through widespread provider engagement in pathway mapping and assurance processes, including all Trusts participating in full pathway and assurance cycles, alongside strong engagement in regional forums such as the North West Children's and TYA Cancer Conference, which brought together over **100 delegates**. This level of participation reflects a step change in collaboration, creating the conditions for open dialogue, shared problem-solving, and alignment around common priorities.

There has also been a meaningful shift in how the network uses information to drive improvement. The introduction of a regional TYA dashboard and digital MDT processes has significantly improved visibility of pathways, risks, and variation across the system. For the first time, this has enabled more consistent oversight and data-informed discussions across providers. Alongside this, work to establish research baselines, strengthen genomic alignment, and map pathways has provided a clearer evidence base for decision-making. As a result, the network has begun to move from responding to issues as they arise, to proactively identifying variation and targeting improvement where it is most needed.

The maturity of the programme is increasingly reflected in the consistency and reliability of how work is delivered. Core elements such as the assurance model, co-production approaches, and workforce development offer are now embedded across the network, with delivery across these areas progressing at or near full implementation. These foundations have created a more structured and confident delivery environment, where expectations are clearer and there is greater alignment in how providers contribute to shared goals.

Importantly, this progress is beginning to translate into meaningful benefits for patients. There is evidence of improved identification and follow-up of patients requiring late effects support, with **80** patients identified as requiring follow-

up care, alongside innovation in how patients access information, including the development of a co-produced **AI-enabled chatbot** with direct patient design and co-production central to the project.

Overall, the network is moving forward with greater coherence, confidence, and purpose. The combination of strengthened relationships, improved use of data, and consistent delivery, underpinned by strong overall progress against objectives provides clear evidence of a system that is becoming more connected and effective. This creates a strong foundation for the next phase, with growing confidence that sustainable, system-wide improvements in the quality and equity of TYA care can be achieved across the North West.

Closing Thank You Message

As we reflect on the progress made this year, we want to extend sincere thanks to all our partner organisations, Specialised Commissioning, and the Cancer Alliances whose commitment and collaboration continue to drive meaningful improvement for young people across our region. Your expertise, challenge and support have been instrumental in shaping the work we deliver.

A special thank you goes to the young people and families with lived experience who have generously shared their insight, time and honesty. Your voices remain central to everything we do, and the value you bring to our programmes cannot be overstated.

Our achievements this year are the result of collective effort, shared ambition and a genuine commitment to improving outcomes for teenagers and young adults with cancer. We look forward to strengthening these partnerships further and continuing to work openly, collaboratively and with purpose.

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