



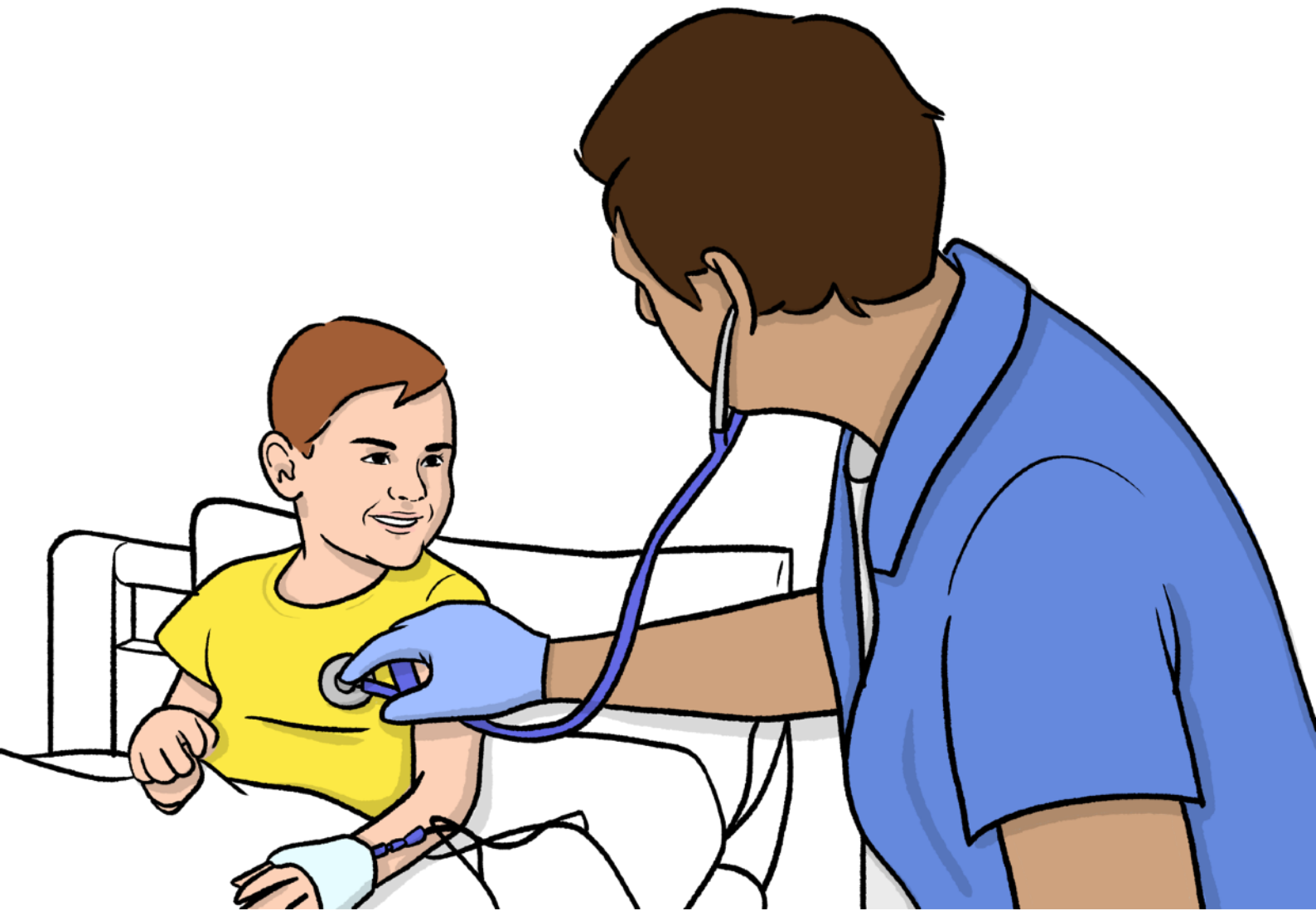
Easy  
Read

North West  
Children's Cancer  
Operational Delivery Network



# Working Together for Children with Cancer

A plan for what we are going to  
do from 2023-2028



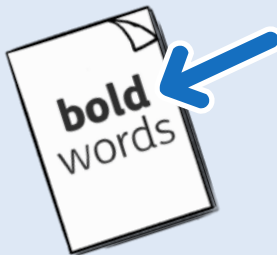
# Easy Read



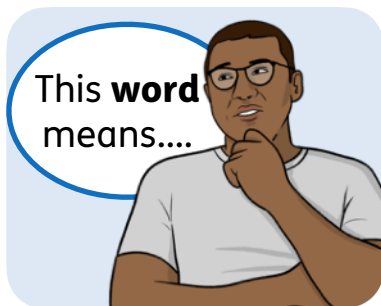
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



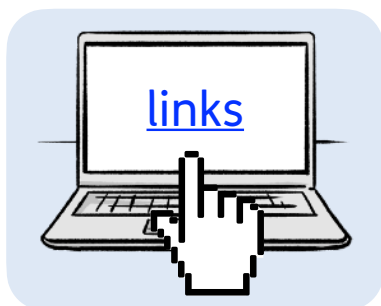
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.

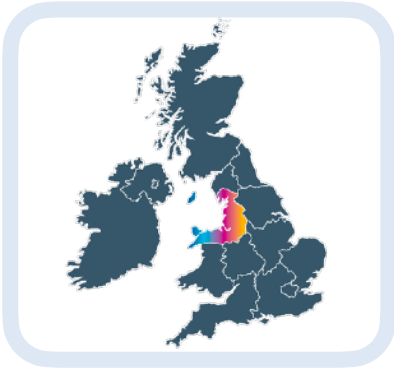


Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

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# About this booklet



**The North West Children's Cancer Operational Delivery Network (NWCCODN)** is a group of healthcare organisations that work in the North West of England, North Wales and the Isle of Man.

The people who work with the network are:



- Doctors



- Nurses



- Health professionals



- Managers



- People who give money to pay for healthcare



- Patients.

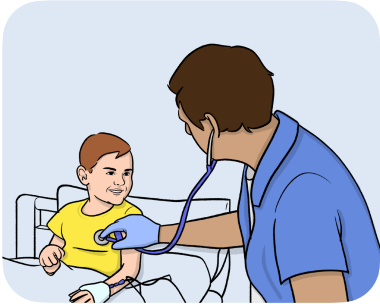


We work together to make sure children who have cancer get the best treatment.



This is a plan of what we will do from 2023 to 2028 to help children who have cancer.

# About our work



Each year, about 450 children under the age of 16 in our area receive cancer treatment.



We have two specialised hospitals in our area. These hospitals are some of the best in the world.

These 2 specialist hospitals are:



- Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust)



- Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust).



10 other providers help look after patients and give some treatments closer to home.



We are given money from NHS England and Cancer Alliances to help support our work.



To make this plan, we asked children with cancer and their families what they think.



We also spoke to healthcare staff about what they think.

# What is happening



Some places in the North West of England are poorer than others.



Most children with cancer are younger than 5.



Some families have to travel a long way to get treatment.



Travel costs are expensive.



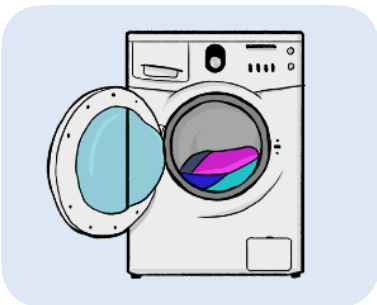
# What children and their families said they wanted in hospital

## A space that feels friendly

Children and their families want to feel welcome in the space, and have things like:



- A kitchen



- A washing machine



- Fun toys and activities so that children can play.

# Better service

Children and their families want to:



- Spend less time waiting for treatment to start



- Know that children who are scared of needles will have support



- Be told the truth about how long they will be waiting



- To be included when decisions are made about a child who has cancer.

# Being able to go back home

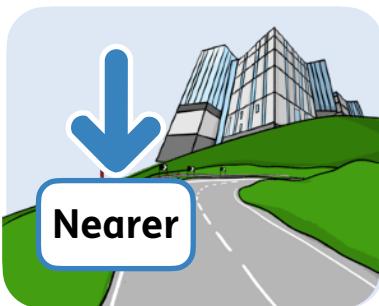
Children and their families want to:



- Have treatment in their own home if they can



- Be able to call health care staff for help any time when they are at home



- Do less travelling.

# What healthcare staff said

Healthcare staff said they wanted:



- To be able to talk to children and their families honestly



- To make sure children who have cancer can talk about how they feel



- To learn the best ways to support children who have cancer following new health **research**

**Research** is where a condition is looked at closely to understand more about it and to see if there are new ways to treat it



- More help in giving children with cancer support when they are at home.

Healthcare staff also told us they wanted:



- Changes to **policy** to be done more quickly

**Policy** is the way an organisation does things



- To make sure everyone can get good **palliative care**

**Palliative care** is special medical care given to someone with a serious illness. It helps to manage their symptoms and make them as comfortable as possible.

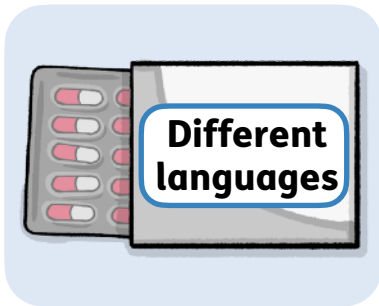


- To make sure all services give good treatment



- Staff to be looked after better when they need it.

Healthcare staff also told us about what is going well, like:



- Medicines now come with labels in other languages for people who do not speak English



- Health staff from different services and hospitals work well together



- Health research helping children who have cancer.

# How we spend our money



We get money from NHS England.

We are making sure that we spend money on things like:



- Giving children with cancer the best health care treatment



- Training health care staff



- Being able to use information that has been found in health research.

# What happens next



We will have staff working in 4 different groups:

- **Workforce and Education**



- This is giving staff looking after children with cancer the best training.

- **Data and Digital**



- This makes it easier for patient information to be shared with different services using technology



- Families can have video recording devices for children at home so they can still take part in their school lessons.



## ● High Quality Equitable Care



- This is making care better for children like giving health treatment which lets them go home afterwards



- This is making palliative care better for children and families.

## ● Patient and Family Engagement



- A **survey** will be given to patients and their families

A **survey** is a set of questions for you to answer

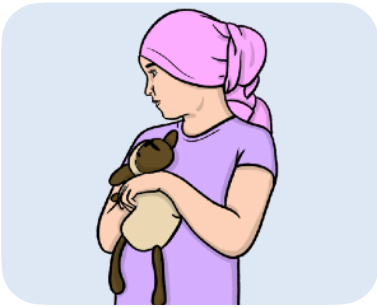


- The answers from the survey will help make the services better.

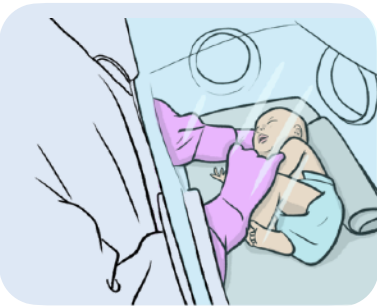


## We work with the **North West Specialised Commissioning Transformation Programme.**

This programme was created in 2021 using information from throughout the country for:

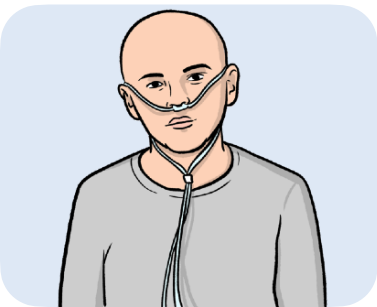


- Children and young people with cancer



- **Neonatal critical care**

This is care for babies who are up to 28 days old.



- **Paediatric critical care**

This is care for children and young people up to 18 years old.

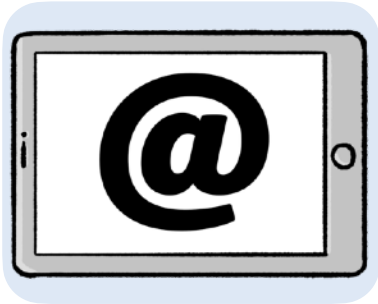


- **Surgery in children.**



If you would like more information on the transformation programme please email:

[england.wcyptransformation@nhs.net](mailto:england.wcyptransformation@nhs.net)



If you would like more information about the network, please email:

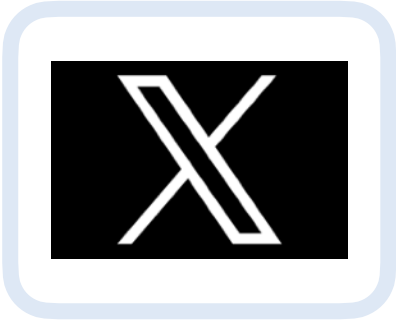
[info.nwccodn@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:info.nwccodn@mft.nhs.uk)



Or you can look at this website:

[www.nwchildrenscancerodn.nhs.uk](http://www.nwchildrenscancerodn.nhs.uk)

You can follow the network on social media:



- Twitter/X: @NWCCODN



- Instagram: @NWCCODN

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Image 3 on page 6 of Alder Hey Children's Hospital was photographed by  
Gareth Jones.