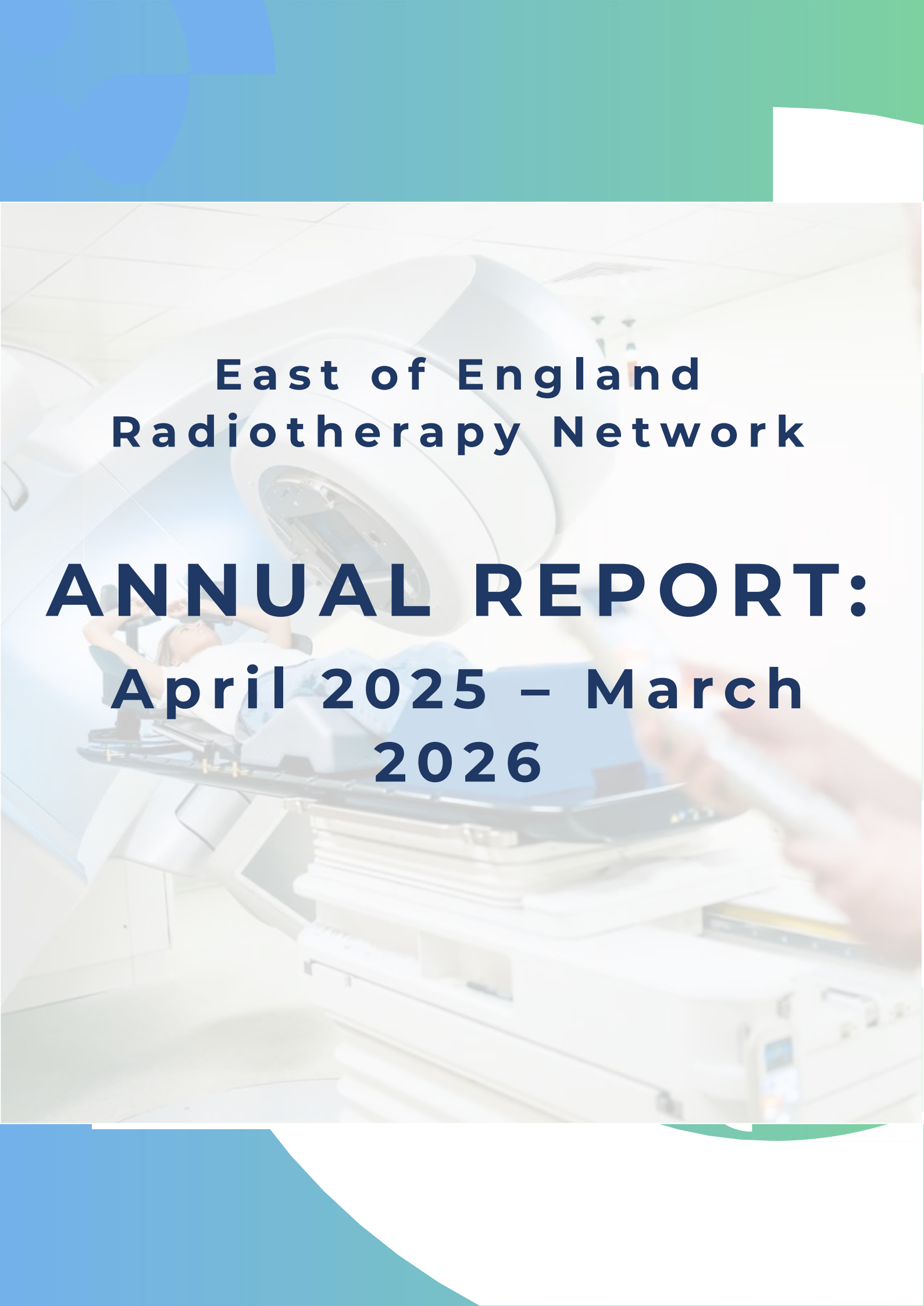


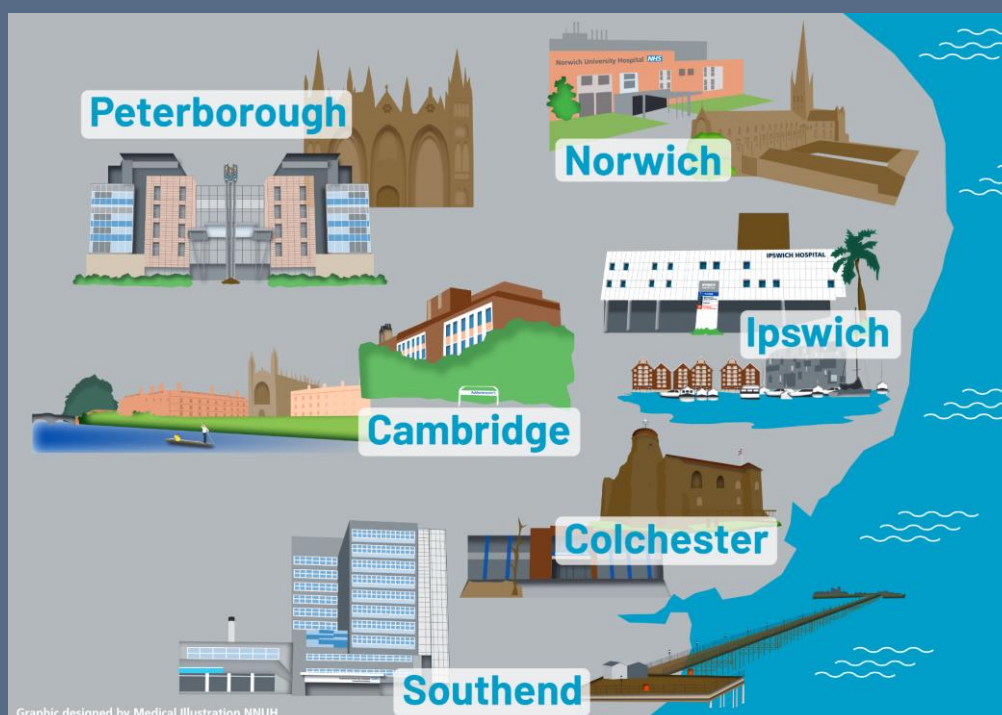
The background of the cover is a photograph of a patient lying on a radiotherapy treatment table. A large, white, circular gantry of the machine is positioned over the patient. In the foreground, a hand is visible holding a white remote control, likely used to operate the machine. The image is semi-transparent, allowing the text to be clearly visible. The top and bottom of the cover feature decorative geometric shapes in shades of blue and green.

**East of England
Radiotherapy Network**

ANNUAL REPORT:
**April 2025 – March
2026**

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FOREWORD

Dr Daniel Holyoake, Clinical Lead for the East of England Radiotherapy Network

The East of England Radiotherapy Network is pleased with what it has achieved over the year, but significant challenges remain. The Network as an organisation sets itself clear goals and rigorously monitors and evaluates its own performance to help ensure it delivers on its aims and maintains focus.

One key function is to enable sharing of good practice, shine a light on variation, and improve quality and safety as a result. One route to this is to generate and maintain network radiotherapy treatment protocols and patient information materials for major tumour sites which are now replete and scheduled reviews continue. Another route is via organising and providing a platform for staff across the network to communicate and meet regularly to share achievements and help collaboration address shared difficulties, and we have introduced Share and Learn regular in-person visits to the regional radiotherapy centres alongside the established specialty groups such as those for treatment planning and consultant radiographers.

We hosted a highly successful and very well attended Study Day with representation in the speakers from all of the regional sites, and from all the major staff groups of clinicians, radiographers, and radiotherapy physics, reflecting the reach and relevance of the Network to its staff members. We have run regular teaching and education programmes including a very-well received physics teaching programme for the clinical oncology specialty trainees, and a series of webinars on re-irradiation supported by international speakers, which was used by the regional departments to develop or strengthen their protocols. We have launched a website packed with substantial reference information including to all Network documentation, records of teaching and presentations, and further onward links when helpful.

RADIOTHERAPY HIGHLIGHTS



137,701* attendances of radiotherapy, accounting for % of the national total

*Please note only 4 months of ESNEFT data available due to RTDS V6 upgrade



Workplan objectives
completed in 25/ 26

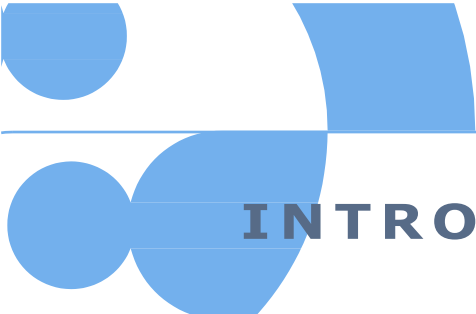


- Achieved
- Partially achieved and carried forward
- Not started and carried forward
- Not completed and not carried forward

**10/ 16 generic
indicators of a well-
functioning Network
met; 2 in progress; 4 to
be addressed.**

**2026/ 2027 Annual
Work Programme
agreed**





INTRODUCTION



Radiotherapy is a vital component of cancer care, requiring highly specialised workforce, technology, and infrastructure. The East of England Radiotherapy Network continues to provide system leadership to support collaboration across five provider organisations, ensuring patients receive high-quality, equitable care regardless of location.

During 2025–2026, the Network has delivered measurable impact across patient care, workforce development, innovation, and system efficiency. This report focuses on the value delivered across the system, demonstrating how networked working supports the delivery of improved radiotherapy services.

The Network continues to act as a platform for shared learning, innovation, and coordinated service development across the region.

SUMMARY OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The achievements of the East of England Radiotherapy Network are summarised below. Alongside these, further progress has been made in reducing unwarranted variation, improving access to advanced treatment techniques, and supporting the planning and management of capacity and demand across the region.

The Network continues to deliver value for the NHS by providing clinical expertise to inform service planning, offering a platform for the sharing of learning and best practice, and supporting the escalation of system challenges. It also plays a key role in enabling shared learning, innovation, and coordinated service development across the region.

1. IMPROVING PATIENT CARE

2. ENABLING INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY

3. STRENGTHENING THE WORKFORCE

4. DELIVERING VALUE FOR THE NHS

5. ENABLING COLLABORATION ACROSS THE SYSTEM

6. PROMOTING RADIOOTHERAPY CAREERS

1.Improving patient care

The Network has supported initiatives that improve patient experience, reduce variation, and ensure access to specialist expertise.

Key achievements include:

- Participation in regional and national audits using ProKnow to identify opportunities for improvement in radiotherapy dosimetry
- Co-production of a Late Effects Support and Information Guide, ensuring patients receive clear, consistent information on long-term treatment effects. We value and recognise the contribution of our Network Co-Production Group members to the production of these resources.
- Ongoing work to reduce variation in treatment pathways across providers through shared learning and collaboration

These initiatives contribute to improved patient outcomes and a more consistent experience of care across the region.



2. Enabling innovation & efficiency

The Network has enabled the adoption and spread of innovation across providers, maximising impact, and reducing duplication.

Key achievements include:

- Regional implementation of the M-Vision AI auto-contouring pilot, with funding secured until March 2026, supporting more efficient and consistent treatment planning
- Delivery of a regional re-irradiation education programme, with approximately 60 participants attending each session, supporting knowledge sharing in complex treatment areas
- Establishment of Treatment Planning and Adaptive Radiotherapy Groups, providing a platform for collaboration, standardisation, and service development

These initiatives support the adoption of modern radiotherapy techniques and improve efficiency.



3. Strengthening the workforce

Workforce sustainability remains a critical priority for radiotherapy services. The Network has played a role in supporting workforce development and retention.

Key achievements include:

- Securing 5 Therapeutic Radiographer apprenticeship grants across three trusts, including successful escalation to enable Year 2 funding
- Securing education funding across all five trusts, supporting staff to develop advanced skills and work at the top of their licence
- Providing physics support for the regional registrar training programme, strengthening the future clinical workforce

The Network enables a coordinated approach to workforce development, reducing duplication and ensuring equitable access to training opportunities.



4. Delivering value for the NHS

The Network plays a role in reducing duplication of effort and supporting the efficient use of resources and supporting long-term service sustainability.

Key achievements include:

- Development and agreement of a Network-wide equipment replacement strategy (2025–2030), supporting coordinated capital planning and reducing risk associated with ageing equipment
- Delivery of shared education and training programmes, reducing duplication and providing economies of scale
- Supporting providers to improve efficiency through shared learning and pathway improvements, including Cancer Waiting Time performance

Through these initiatives, the Network supports better value for money by enabling collaboration, reducing duplication, and maximising the impact of investment.



5. Enabling collaboration

The Network continues to strengthen collaboration across providers and with system partners.

Key achievements include:

- Launch of the East of England Radiotherapy Network website, providing a central hub for resources, communication, and knowledge sharing
- Delivery of a Radiotherapy Masterclass for system partners, improving understanding of radiotherapy across Integrated Care Board and provider teams
- Ongoing regional collaboration to improve pathways, share best practice and support service performance

This collaborative approach ensures that radiotherapy services are planned and delivered as a coherent system rather than in isolation.



6. Promoting radiotherapy careers

The Network has supported initiatives to raise awareness of careers in radiotherapy and strengthen the future workforce pipeline.

Key activities include:

- Participation in the British Forces Resettlement Services Careers Fair
- Coordination of regional activities for World Radiotherapy Awareness Day, supporting engagement and visibility of the profession
- Careers outreach activities including careers fairs, targeted interventions in schools and colleges, and coordination of staff to support events where possible
- Continued use of 'Get into RT careers' VR headset resource to promote all careers within radiotherapy

These initiatives support recruitment and help ensure a sustainable workforce for the future.



CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES

CHALLENGES

Radiotherapy services continue to face significant challenges, including:

- Workforce shortages across key professional groups
- Increasing demand and treatment complexity
- Limited Network workforce capacity to deliver an expanding programme of work

Despite these challenges, the Network has continued to deliver impactful initiatives through collaboration and shared commitment across providers.

PRIORITIES FOR 2026 – 2027

The Network will focus on the following priorities:

- Improving Cancer Waiting Time performance
- Providing a platform for collaboration and sharing of learning both regionally and nationally
- Supporting adoption of advanced radiotherapy techniques
- Strengthening workforce sustainability initiatives
- Continuing to develop Network maturity and governance



SUMMARY

Why the Network matters

The East of England Radiotherapy Network provides a platform for collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement across all radiotherapy providers in the region.

Together we:

Improve quality by reducing variation in care.

Strengthen services through shared expertise and collaborative problem solving.

Develop our workforce through education, mentorship, and professional support.

Accelerate innovation by spreading new ideas, technologies, and best practice.

Increase efficiency by avoiding duplication and making best use of collective resources.

Deliver value for patients, providers, and the wider NHS.

Working as a Network enables us to achieve greater impact than any organisation working alone.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all those who have supported the work of the East of England Radiotherapy Network over the past year.

In particular, we acknowledge Dr Sarah Jefferies, Deputy Chair, for her continued leadership and support, and Dr Daniel Holyoake, Network Clinical Lead for his contribution to the Network's ongoing development. We also thank Dr Kamal Thippu for his work supporting regional ProKnow audit, and Dr Alex Martin for his continued role as SABR Clinical lead.

We recognise the valuable input of members of the Network Oversight Group for their strategic leadership and guidance and are grateful to the Body Site Group Chairs and members for their expertise, commitment, and collaborative approach.

Above all, we would like to recognise the radiotherapy workforce across the region for their professionalism, dedication, and resilience in delivering high-quality patient care, often in challenging circumstances.

