

2025-26 Plan on a Page

This plan sets out the priorities for 2025-26 to improve outcomes for patients in the Northeast and North Cumbria who receive radiotherapy as part of their cancer treatment. Our work focuses on improving access to radiotherapy and enabling more people to benefit from cutting edge treatments and technology, as well as improving patients' experiences of coming for treatment and quality of life.

Our drivers

- NHS 10-year plan
- Radiotherapy Service Specification
- Radiotherapy Network Specification
- 10-year National Cancer Plan

1. Improving access to radiotherapy

1a. Improve CWT and 31/62-day RT performance

- Agreement of RT metrics and development of RT data dashboard to provide baseline metrics for radiotherapy pathway
- Local capacity and demand projects to include;
 - Current and projected demand
 - Pathway capacity analysis
- Develop and implement network mutual support agreement
- Identifying areas for improvement and agree projects to make improvements and address variation

1b. Expanding and upskilling the workforce

- Undertake comprehensive audit of current staffing level, skill mixes and training needs and benchmark against recommended national staffing levels. Where none exist, agree local recommendations.
- Development of radiotherapy workforce strategy
- Coordination of network workforce and career promotion activities
- Increase staff retention through network-wide education, training and CPD.

1c. Improve access to innovative treatments

- Improve access to SGRT for all patients at all centres
- Ensure network access to SABR for locally advanced non-metastatic pancreatic carcinoma (LANPC)
- Improve access to Radium 223 treatments for eligible patients with prostate cancer in Carlisle
- Improve access to research and clinical trials
- Address unwarranted clinical variation in treatment

1d. Modernising radiotherapy infrastructure

- Update network equipment audit and replacement schedule
- Work with Providers and ICB Infrastructure Board to agree a clearly defined replacement strategy and capital funding via business cases.
- Agree longer-term funding mechanisms for AI auto-contouring.

2. Improving patient experience and quality of life

2a. Improving access to patient information

- Release patient information videos about radiotherapy for lung, gynae, upper GI and lower GI cancers
- Development of new patient information videos about molecular radiotherapy
- Measure patient awareness and understanding of new videos via local surveys
- Improving access to information about research and trials through continued promotion of resources and measuring impact.

2b. Addressing health inequalities

- Translated patient information resources to be available and published on the network website
- Development of easy read patient information resources.

2c. Improving quality of life

- Sharing good practice of network late effects services
- Working with partners and stakeholders to undertake initial scoping work for development of late effects services