

Radiotherapy Network Plan: *Delivering now, building for the future*

This plan sets out our priorities for 2026-27 as part of our longer-term ambition to improve outcomes for patients in the North East and North Cumbria who receive radiotherapy as part of their cancer treatment. Our work this year 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, while supporting the development of a more equitable and sustainable radiotherapy service for the future

Our drivers

- Fit for the Future - NHS 10-year health plan
- The National Cancer Plan for England
- Radiotherapy Service Specification
- Radiotherapy Network Specification

2026-27 Priorities

1. Improving access to radiotherapy

1a. Performance	1b. Workforce	1c. Innovation and variation	1d. Infrastructure
• Improving CWT performance and 31/62 day pathways through; • Network agreement on clinical prioritisation • Improved CWT for priority patients • Targeted improvement via pathway analysis • Develop a mutual aid agreement process • Address GIRFT recommendations	• Workforce plan to include; • Coordinated recruitment and training • Improving staff retention • Joint approach to apprenticeships, enhanced practice, education and training • Network-wide CPD, education and training • Career promotion activities	• Improve access to; • Surface guided Radiotherapy (SGRT) • DIBH for left-sided breast patients • SABR for pancreatic carcinoma (LANPC) • Radium 223 for eligible patients with prostate cancer in Carlisle • research and clinical trials • Address unwarranted clinical variation	• Equipment audit and replacement plan • Capital funding allocation agreement with Providers and ICB

2. Improving patient experience and quality of life

2a. Patient information	2b. Health inequalities	2c. Quality of life
• Patient information videos • Tumour-sites • Molecular RT • Measure patient awareness and understanding of radiotherapy via local surveys • Re-run of National Radiotherapy Patient Experience survey	• Targeted health inequalities work • Improve data quality	• Sharing good practice of late effects services

Longer-term ambition

