



**Yorkshire & Humber**  
RADIOTHERAPY NETWORK

# Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Network

Newsletter - March 2026



**Sheffield Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust



**The Leeds  
Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Trust



**Humber Health  
Partnership**

# What is the Yorkshire & Humber ‘ODN’?

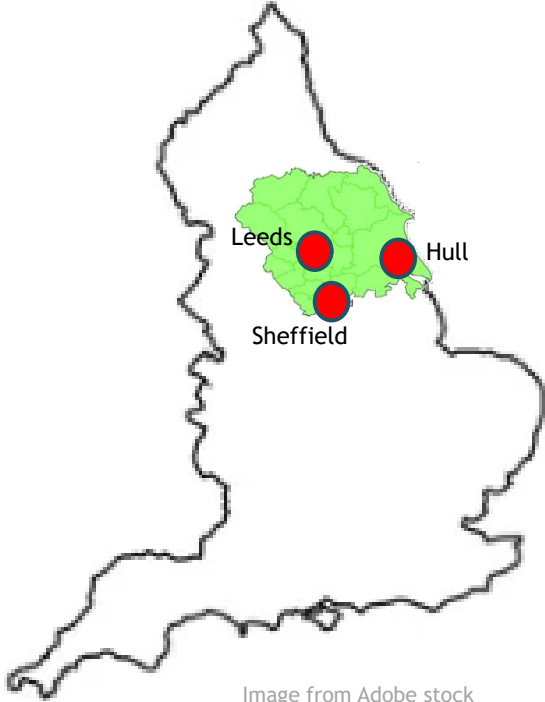


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- ▶ Radiotherapy Operational Delivery Networks (ODNs) created by NHS England in 2019
- ▶ 11 regional networks in England
- ▶ Yorkshire and Humber ODN (YHODN) being your local network of:

**Humber Health Partnership (incorporating Hull)**  
**Leeds**  
**Sheffield**

- ▶ Based on the NHSE RT ODN Service Specification, the function of the ODN is to:
  - ▶ Improve regional access to modern radiotherapy
  - ▶ Improve patient experience
  - ▶ Increase participation in research and clinical trials
  - ▶ Reduce unwarranted variation in services

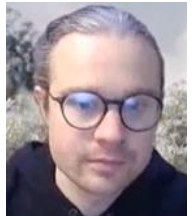
# Core ODN team



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# Network Oversight Group (NOG)

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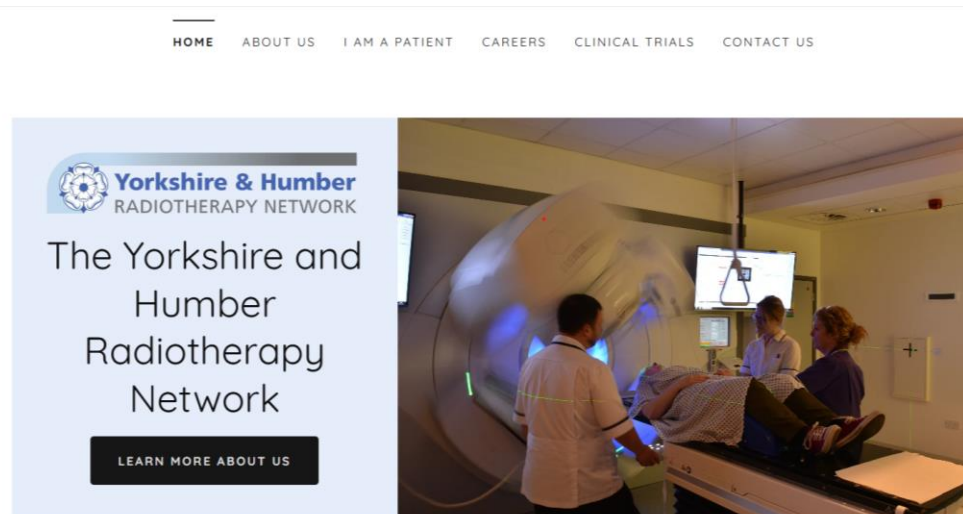
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# Website Launch

- ▶ We have launched our network website. It hosts information about the network's workstreams and governance, clinical trials, radiotherapy careers and information for patients.
- ▶ [Visit our website here](#)
- ▶ Please share with colleagues and anyone you think may benefit from the website.
- ▶ We welcome feedback to improve the website for professionals or patients.



# Workplan 2025/26 highlights

2025/26 was a successful year for the network in which the main focus was on monitoring cancer waiting times. Other notable achievements include:

- ▶ Creation and publication of the network website
- ▶ Development of network resources for careers open days
- ▶ Radiotherapy support workforce analysis
- ▶ Linac productivity analysis and sharing of good practice
- ▶ Connecting and supporting the patient engagement teams in each centre

The 2026/27 will be published in time for the next financial year.

# Surface Guided Radiotherapy (SGRT)

ODN: Awareness and preparedness for emerging technologies and treatments

- ▶ Surface-Guided Radiation Therapy (SGRT): a technology that uses multiple cameras to track a patient's body surface in 3D during radiation treatment.
- ▶ Since February 2024, the ODN has had regular meetings to share purchasing and implementation experience across the network for SGRT



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- ▶ HHP is now a completely tattooless radiotherapy service. Implementation of open-face mask treatment is planned for Spring. The SGRT team were nominated in the *Outstanding Care* category at the Humber and North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance (HNYCA) Excellence in Cancer Awards 2025 and also recognised through the Trust's *Golden Stars Awards*.
- ▶ LTHT has finished phase I and gone live for tattooless breast patients. 2 more SGRT systems have had funding approved from local charities.
- ▶ STH business case is ongoing using Hull and Leeds successes to support

# LTHT Highlight

## Apprenticeship success

- ▶ The apprenticeship program at Leeds is a new experience for all involved and it has been a steep learning curve as they develop the program and adapt the support provided to learners.
- ▶ They currently have 8 apprentices on the program with a further 2 ready to start in March. The apprentices come from varying backgrounds, some having clinical experience and others venturing into hospitals for the first time in their careers.
- ▶ All have settled onto the program and are enjoying the clinical aspect of the role. The Leeds team look forward to supporting them as they move forward on the program and are excited to see their 2nd years progress into their 3rd year and graduate in 2027!



# STH Highlight

## New Linac - December 2025

- ▶ Over £7million has been invested in two new state of the art linear accelerators at Weston Park Cancer Centre to meet growing demand for radiotherapy.
- ▶ The development includes a purpose-built extension wing at Weston Park Cancer Centre to house two new Halcyon radiotherapy machines which enable faster, more precise radiotherapy treatments and will provide additional capacity to meet the growing demand for radiotherapy. The new wing also provides modern welcoming waiting area for patients and staff facilities.
- ▶ Dr Trish Fisher said: "This halves the treatment time for patients compared to previous machines that we used. The £7m development represents another step forward in Sheffield Teaching Hospital's commitment to providing the highest standard of cancer care to patients from across South Yorkshire and beyond using the latest technology."



# HHP Highlights

## Departmental updates

### **MPACE (BS70000) Accreditation:**

Our scope of UKAS accreditation has been successfully extended to include the mould room, brachytherapy and SGRT, providing full end-to-end Radiotherapy Physics coverage. <https://www.ukas.com/resources/resources/case-study-huth/>

### **Leadership Update:**

Peter Colley has been appointed Group Head of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering. Dr Nicola Mullins has taken up the role of Head of Radiotherapy Physics Service at HHP.

### **HNYCA Innovation Bid:**

The VVA - Gynae clinic bid has been successful and is now progressing to a concept paper to support the development of a permanent service model.

### **Brachytherapy Service Redesign:**

A comprehensive service review, undertaken with the Cancer Psychological Support Service, patients and the full MDT, has informed a redesigned brachytherapy pathway aligned with the commissioning of the new brachytherapy unit.

### **Workforce Development and Retention:**

Our third radiographer apprentice is due to qualify in March, further strengthening the future workforce pipeline. In addition, the Band 5 to Band 6 progression framework has been successfully implemented and is already demonstrating a positive impact on staff development and retention.

### **Radiotherapy Right-Sizing Programme:**

The Trust's Radiotherapy Right-Sizing business case has been approved, providing a phased, strategic investment in workforce and extended clinical capacity to support delivery of national cancer waiting-time standards and future service growth.

# Radiotherapy Network Clinical Trials Tracker

- ▶ The network, in collaboration with Clinical Trials teams from each of the Radiotherapy centres have produced a Radiotherapy Clinical Trials tracker for Yorkshire, which can be accessed [here](#)
- ▶ You will need to request access with your NHS.net account to view the spreadsheet.
- ▶ Please feel free to share this tracker widely to boost awareness of research being undertaken in your area.

# Network VR Advances

## Regional advances in technology

### Get Into Radiotherapy Careers – Virtual Reality Experience

A collaboration between East of England, Northern, and Yorkshire & Humber Radiotherapy Networks

#### WHY WE DID IT

**Challenge:** Recruitment to radiotherapy courses is vital; careers events can be challenging to engage students.

**Aim:** Inspire students using immersive VR to show the technology, teamwork, and impact of radiotherapy.

Want to find out more?

<https://northernradiotherapynetwork.nhs.uk/workforce>

[Get Into Radiotherapy Careers \(long\) - YouTube](#)

[Radiotherapy - IPEM - Loan Outreach Equipment](#)

#### HOW DID WE DO IT

##### **Timeline:**

- Feb 2024: Animersion UK appointed
- Apr–May 2024: Filming at Leeds, Oxford, Northern Centre
- Jul–Aug 2024: Stakeholder review
- Sep 2024: Pilot VR launched

##### **VR Content:**

- Linac Treatment Room, CT Scanner, Treatment Planning, Immobilisation, Clinic, Engineering
- Features: Voiceovers, Info boxes, Staff case studies

Thanks: NHS England, Animersion UK, filming sites, professionals involved



#### IMPACT & NEXT STEPS

**Reach:** >300 users in 6 months; events across England

**Types of events:** Open days, school visits, STEM fairs, apprenticeships, military recruitment, university open days, county fairs

##### **Feedback:**

- “I hadn’t considered radiotherapy before –it’s really interesting!”
- “Brilliant way to show technology behind cancer treatment”

**Sustainability:** IPEM includes VR headset in loan library; engagement with HEIs to increase awareness of resource