

Yorkshire and Humber Radiotherapy Network

(a.k.a. Y&H Operational Delivery Network 'ODN')

Newsletter

December 2024

Content hyperlinks:

What is 'ODN'?	SGRT Update	Virtual Reality	Patient Experience
ProKnow	Apprenticeships	ODN Team	Other work

What is the Yorkshire & Humber ‘ODN’?

- ▶ 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:



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

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
- ▶ **Hull** – SGRT being used clinically on 4 TrueBeam treatment machines and is looking to go live with SGRT on 2 Halcyon treatment machines in January with pelvis.
- ▶ Breast free breathing and DIBH are live as SGRT and tattooless.
- ▶ [Link: New Hull hospital tech removes need for cancer patient tattoos - BBC News](#)
- ▶ Radiographer Katy Hill gave a talk at the **European SGRT Conference**, which other YHODN members also attended
- ▶ **Leeds** – Took delivery of SGRT from the manufacturers in December 2024
 - ▶ Visiting Hull to learn about implementation
- ▶ **Sheffield** - Exploring potential funding and business case
- ▶ Discussions with **Sheffield Hallam University** for research collaboration



Image from NHS Humber Health Partnership: Castle Hill's radiotherapy team Carl Horsfield, Nikki Mullins, Daniel West, Mairi Clark and Vic Sykes

13:50 – 14:30

Cultivating a Culture of Change



Katy Hill

Radiotherapy Advanced Practitioner for Research and Innovation, Castle Hill Hospital Hull, UK

IMPROVING THE ENTIRE RT WORKFLOW
GAME CHANGER
THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SGRT COMMUNITY
28 & 29 Nov 2024
etc.venues County Hall (London)

AGENDA

'Get into Radiotherapy Careers' Virtual Reality Experience

ODN: Workforce Sustainability - Careers Outreach



If you'd like to use the headsets in your department, contact:

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gordon.stewart9@nhs.net (HUTH)

gemma.bushby@nhs.net (STH)

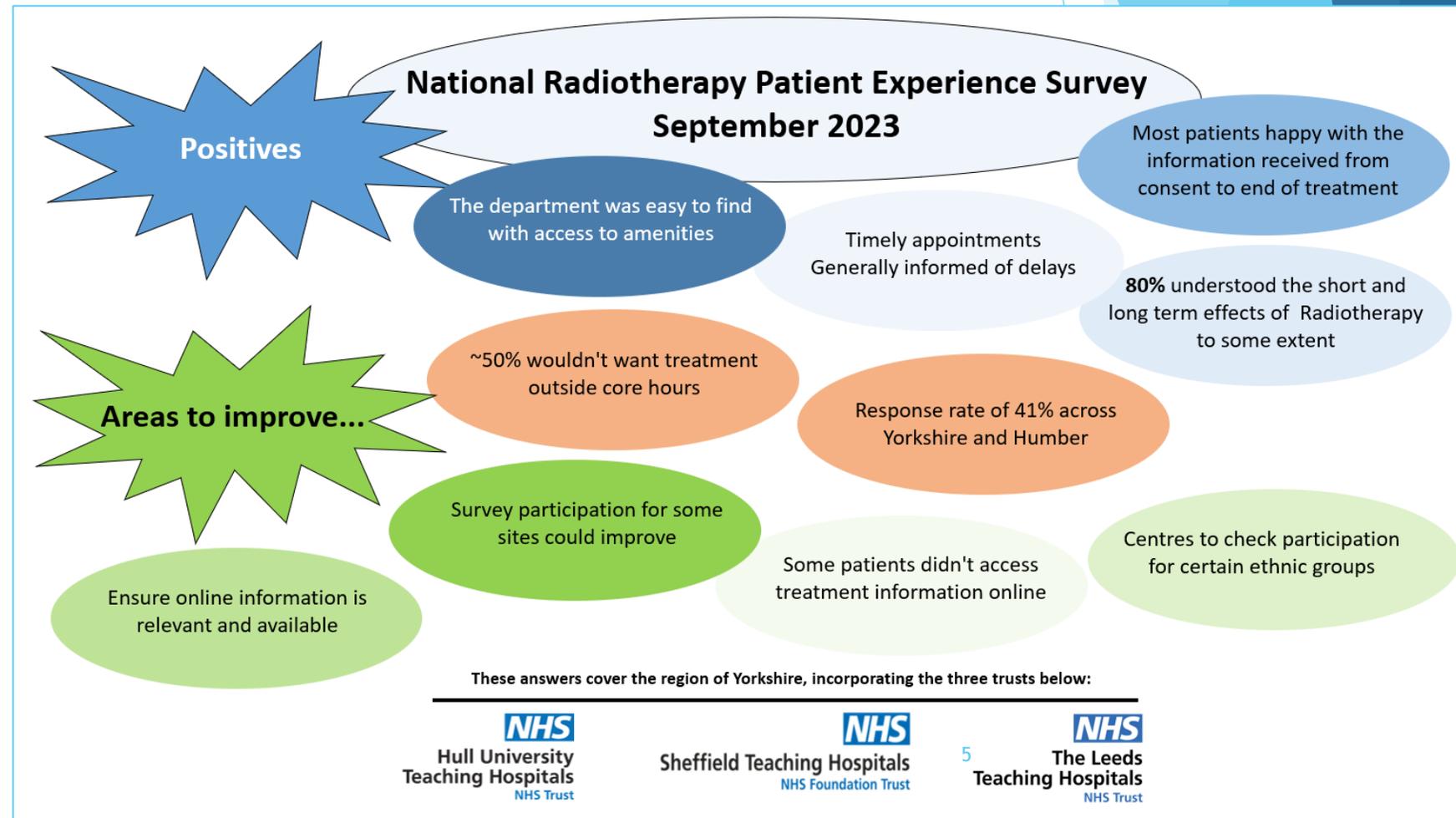
isa.kiwanuka1@nhs.net (STH)

- ▶ Our ODN has been supporting the Northern and East of England Radiotherapy Networks on an exciting project to develop and rollout a virtual reality experience for schools and careers events to demonstrate the role of therapeutic radiographers, clinical scientists, dosimetrists, mould room staff and engineers in radiotherapy
- ▶ YouTube video ['Get into Radiotherapy Careers'](#)
- ▶ Some of the filming took place at Leeds Cancer Centre
- ▶ Review of the content was supported by Leeds and Sheffield.
- ▶ Hull, Sheffield and Leeds radiotherapy education teams now have access to two Pico3 VR headsets each, which have received a positive reception at a sixth form talk and an Open Day!
- ▶ Headsets were funded by NHS England.
- ▶ IPEM is adding our 7th headset to their loan catalogue for other centres to borrow



National Radiotherapy Patient Experience Survey - Patient Involvement

- ▶ The National Radiotherapy Patient Experience Survey took place in September 2023 developed by Radiotherapy Network Managers.
- ▶ Results released in full May 2024.
- ▶ The purpose of the survey was to gather feedback from patients about their radiotherapy experience at a greater depth than that provided by the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey.
- ▶ The results show that the Yorkshire & Humber Radiotherapy Network provides a good service that is similar across England.
- ▶ There are always opportunities for improvement and these have been identified to be taken forward.
 - ▶ Thanks to all involved in providing a great service for our patients

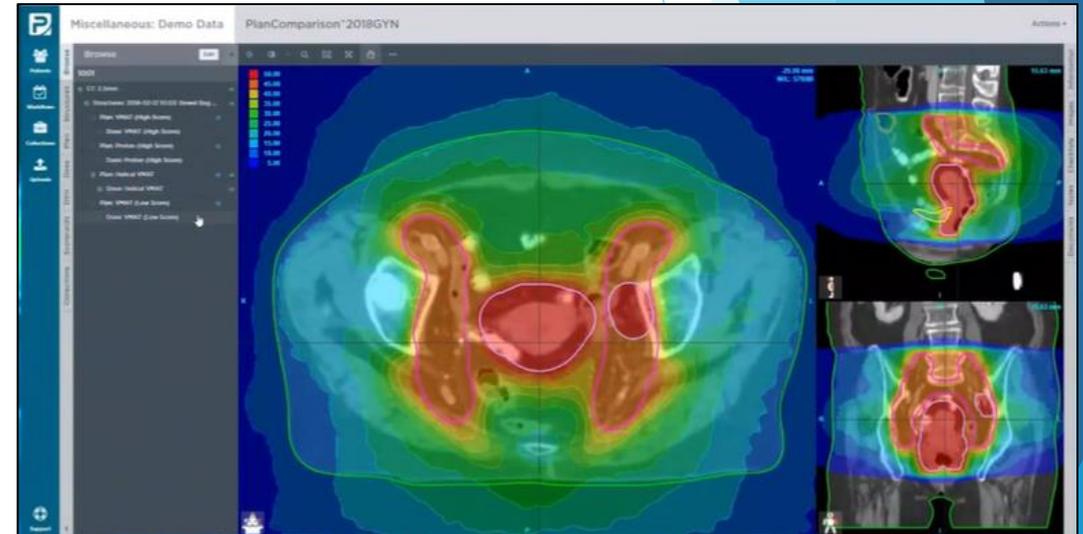


Integrate ProKnow into departments

ProKnow is a secure web-based repository developed by Elekta that NHS England have funded for all radiotherapy centres to use for reviewing plan quality and consistency.

- ▶ 9816 patients* with treatment plans have been imported into ProKnow for national, regional and local review so far.
- ▶ Radiotherapy Physics and Clinical Scientific Computing clinical scientists from Hull, Leeds and Sheffield participate in the National IPEM PTOG Scripting Task and Finish group sharing code and tips for ProKnow implementation and use.
- ▶ Local audit work:
 - ▶ **Hull** - Improved Lung SABR planning after PTV max doses reviewed
 - ▶ **Leeds** have used ProKnow to review rectum and gynae dose conformity
 - ▶ **Sheffield** – Reviewed rectum doses for prostate patients and presented a poster at the SABR Consortium about preparing Lung SABR data for audits and the limitations involved.
- ▶ Y&H network-wide treatment plan audit in progress for endometrium.
- ▶ Y&H data will be involved in a national breast audit – results expected May 2025.

Image from Elekta.com



Scoping Exercise: YHODN Apprenticeship Academy

ODN: Workforce Sustainability

➤ Service Development Funded Project (NHS England)

Assessment of the feasibility of having an apprenticeship academy within the Yorkshire & Humber Radiotherapy Network

- ▶ Gap analysis of current staffing levels against national guidelines (SCoR, IPeM)
- ▶ Apprenticeships offer a viable solution to bridge this gap, improving retention by attracting individuals likely to remain in the region.
- ▶ Review of current Y&H apprenticeships including pay grades, funding and number of apprentices
 - ▶ Therapeutic radiographers, Radiotherapy Engineers, Dosimetrists
- ▶ Feedback gathered from recruitment teams, apprentices (at Y&H, UWE and SHU), higher education providers and apprentice support teams
- ▶ Information compiled on training courses and on-the-job training
- ▶ Discussions around potential academy models
- ▶ Ideas for next steps include: collaborative training, recruitment and outreach.

Final report is still being analysed but findings so far suggest that the proposed Apprenticeship Academy isn't required as an academy, but an apprenticeship network across the YHODN is an important strategic initiative to help address the critical workforce shortages.



Laura Garratt
LTH Chief Dosimetrist
Secondment to ODN
Workforce Programme
Manager (Jan-Nov 2024)
laura.garratt@nhs.net

The current workforce within the YHODN is significantly below the recommended levels, with a shortfall of 59 whole-time equivalent (WTE) Therapeutic Radiographers and 27 WTE Radiotherapy Physics staff.

Funding is needed across the region for apprenticeship and qualified posts, alongside funding and posts for staff to support the apprentices.

Core ODN team



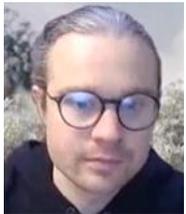
Helen Baines

- ▶ Programme Manager
(interim until Feb 2025)
hbaines@nhs.net



Maddie Cook

- ▶ Programme Manager
(returning from maternity leave Feb 2025)
madeleine.cook@nhs.net



Paddy Carley

- ▶ Data & Project Officer
p.carley@nhs.net

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- ▶ Bioinformatician support from the LTH Clinical Scientific Computing Team
 - ▶ davidsnelling@nhs.net
 - ▶ marcus.tyger@nhs.net
 - ▶ jack.baldwin@nhs.net

Network Oversight Group (NOG)

- ODN Chair and Deputy Chair
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- Heads of Radiotherapy
peter.enever@nhs.net (LTH), clare.hutton11@nhs.net (HUTH), karen.smith239@nhs.net (STH)
- Heads of Radiotherapy Physics
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- Lead Clinicians
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- Representatives from Humber & North Yorkshire Cancer Alliance, South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw, West Yorkshire & Harrogate Cancer Alliance
julia.jessop@nhs.net (SYB), lucy.turner35@nhs.net (HNY), j.pawluk@nhs.net (Jason WYH)
- Representative from NHS England Specialised Commissioning Team
kevin.peters@nhs.net, paul.kendrew-jones@nhs.net
- ODN Clinical Trials Lead Clinician & Molecular Radiotherapy Lead Clinician
jonathan.wadsley1@nhs.net
- ODN Molecular Radiotherapy Lead Clinical Scientist
anna.hallam1@nhs.net
- Patient Representative - Steve Oliver

Examples of other Workstreams 2024-25

Workstream	Service Specification Objectives
Review of Clinical Oncologist Peer Review	Collecting and utilising data to identify and address areas of unwarranted variation in RT services across Y&H
Clinical Protocol Review – Rectum, Head & Neck, Prostate	
Variation in national RTDS report vs. local data	
Molecular Radiotherapy current service scoping	Support of MRT services across Y&H
Mutual Aid	Partnerships between neighbouring centres are in place

Thanks for
reading