

Children and Young People's 10 Year Cancer Plan

Every year in the UK over 4,000 children and young people under 25 are diagnosed with cancer.

This Children and Young People's Cancer Plan will:

Cancer in children and young people is different from cancer in older adults because it:

- Is less common
- Is biologically different and often faster growing
- Comes at a unique time and developmental stage
- Is treated differently than adults
- Has significant long-term treatment effects
- Has unique emotional and mental health impacts
- Is not commonly associated with lifestyle or environmental factors
- Has specific financial implications, such as travel costs to specialised care.

Because of this, the care and support necessary to meet the needs of this group is different from adults with cancer.

The common characterisation of childhood and young people's cancer as 'rare' is misleading causing this age group to be overlooked.

Together the children and young people's cancer sector ask the government to work alongside them to deliver quality care and support for young cancer patients.



ENSURE TIMELY DIAGNOSIS

- Robust referral pathways exist
- National standards are in place
- Standardised education packages for health and care professionals
- Commitment to Child Cancer Smart awareness campaign
- Funded screening and surveillance research programmes.



DELIVER WORLD-CLASS TREATMENT

- Rapid access to new drugs and treatments
- De-escalation and de-toxification of therapies for good risk diseases
- Identification of new treatments for primary therapy resistant disease
- All children and young people with cancer offered appropriate, timely genomic testing
- All children and young people (including boys) offered HPV vaccination.



ENABLE EXCELLENT PATIENT EXPERIENCE

- Experiences of children and young people undergoing cancer treatment are understood
- Continuation of Under 16 Cancer Patient Experience Survey
- Capture bespoke experiences of 16-24 year-olds with cancer
- The children and young people's cancer workforce is adequately resourced to meet patient need.



BUILD WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH

- Participation in clinical trials among children remains high, and rises in teenagers and young adults (50% by 2025)
- Children and young people's Cancer Priority Setting Partnership are the focus of research funders
- Systematic review of research priorities by national funding bodies
- Strengthened Cancer registry data collection for children and young people.



SUPPORT ALL PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS

- Funded travel to and from specialist treatment centres
- Young people's and parents' employment rights are protected
- Evidence-based mental health interventions are part of the treatment pathway
- Mental health support provided for parents and siblings
- Age appropriate and personalised care
- Educational progress is not negatively impacted.



ENSURE QUALITY SURVIVORSHIP

- A national survivorship passport scheme is in place
- Evidence-based surveillance guidelines are implemented
- Long-term psychosocial support for survivors is in place
- Joined-up, single point of access and long-term follow-up care.

By 2033 the Plan will improve outcomes for children and young people with cancer and deliver the tailored support they need.

This plan was developed by Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG) and Young Lives vs Cancer. Published January 2023.

For more information, please contact policyandinfluencing@younglivesvscancer.org.uk



the EXPERTS
in CHILDHOOD
CANCER

**YOUNG LIVES
vs CANCER**