Annual Review
2016/17
There are currently 195,000 people living with and beyond cancer in Yorkshire and this is set to rise to nearly 300,000 by 2030.

Yorkshire has the third highest cancer incidence in England and survival rates for many of the most common cancers are below the national average.

There are many reasons for poorer cancer outcomes in our region including social deprivation, industrial heritage and lifestyle choices. There are also clear disparities in the availability of healthcare services across the region.

If Yorkshire matched the best performing local authority in England, 2,000 more lives would be saved each year. Our goal is to save at least this number each year by 2025.

Our Vision

Every single person in every community across Yorkshire to have the best chance of living a long and healthy life with, without and beyond cancer.

Purpose and Aims

We exist to help people avoid, survive and cope with cancer. We achieve this by:

- Investing in research-led innovation including initial diagnosis, treatment, clinical trials and palliative care.
- Educating and influencing better lifestyle decisions to improve health, reduce the risk of cancer and support successful recovery.
- Facilitating earliest possible diagnosis and increasing rates of cancer screening.
- Improving cancer services.
It was a privilege to be appointed a Trustee of Yorkshire Cancer Research in 2012. Since then I have witnessed the charity's remarkable transition from being a conventional funder of academic science into one of the most important, innovative and professional health research charities in the UK. I was therefore delighted to become Chairman in July 2017.

Graham Berville
Chairman

The 2016/17 financial year has been an extraordinary year for Yorkshire Cancer Research and it’s worth reflecting on some of the progress made.

Patient involvement in programmes we fund has risen significantly since we launched our new strategy. The number of people involved in our research at the end of the financial year was over 49,000.

New relationships with the NHS, Public Health England, local and city councils have developed into strategic partnerships.

As a consequence of research that the charity funded at the University of Sheffield in 2005 the drug Lynparza was discovered. The continuing rise in the clinical use of Lynparza is extremely encouraging as thousands of cancer patients will benefit.

Our flagship research collaborations with Universities in Leeds, Sheffield and Hull have led to programmes of international significance in the fields of early diagnosis, treatment and survivorship.

I feel immensely proud to be associated with Yorkshire Cancer Research and the impact the charity has made and is continuing to make. However, none of this would be possible without the generous support of the many thousands of individuals who raise funds for the charity. It is thanks to their efforts that lives are being saved.

I am also grateful for the hard work and commitment of my predecessors Graham Smith and Professor Tony Robards, and our former Chief Executive, Charles Rowett.
Charity Structure and Governance

Yorkshire Cancer Research’s Patron

“ Having been diagnosed and treated for cancer, I understand how important it is to have access to the very best treatments and care. I believe everyone should have an equal chance of living a long and healthy life.

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE

Trustees

Professor Anthony W Robards OBE PhD DSc FSB
Chairman - to 22 September 2016

Mr Graham Smith
Chairman - from 22 September 2016 to 31 May 2017

Mr Graham Berville BSc (Hons)
Chairman from 2 July 2017 (was Deputy Chairman)

Mr Andy Brown
to 8 September 2016

Mrs Sandra Dodson

Dr Zulfi Hussain MBE

Mrs Margaret Kitching

Mrs Janet Myers

Dr Yvette Oade BSc (Hons), MBChB, FRCPCH

Mr Alan M Sidebottom BA (Hons) FCA

Dr Alan Suggett BSc PhD FRSC HonFRCP

Ms Catherine Rustomji

Senior Management Team

Mr Charles Rowett
Chief Executive (to 04/01/2017)

Dr Kathryn Scott
Director of Research & Innovation and Chief Executive (from 04/01/2017)

Mrs Julia Clark
Director of Fundraising (to 04/12/2016)

Mrs Linsey Trower
Head of Communications

Ms Tamsin Faiers
Head of Finance & Administration and Company Secretary (to 01/07/2016)

Mr Morgan Williams
Head of Strategy, Policy & Impact (to 31/12/2016) and Company Secretary (from 22/09/2016)

I am delighted to support the work of Yorkshire Cancer Research and help the charity make a positive difference to the lives of Yorkshire people.

Sir Michael Parkinson CBE
Chief Executive’s Message

Having been Head of Research and Innovation for Yorkshire Cancer Research for eight years before I became Chief Executive in January 2017, I've seen how our innovative research saves lives. It is no coincidence that investment in pioneering research continues to be part of the charity's core strategy.

In 2016 we worked with more than 100 influential cancer experts to determine our research priorities. As a consequence, we announced plans to invest £7m in initiatives to support early diagnosis, which is key to improving survival, and lung cancer, the region’s most common cancer and leading cause of cancer-related death. Work has progressed rapidly during 2017 and we look forward to introducing the largest ever trial using a mobile lung scanner next year, in partnership with the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

We held a workshop in March 2017 to understand how we can improve the experience of cancer patients in our region. We brought together experts and survivors who explained their physical, emotional and social needs at each stage of their cancer journey and described where their experience did not match their needs. Following this workshop we announced a £8m spend to three priority areas which are now being progressed: improving cancer survivorship, increasing early diagnosis and bringing more clinical trials into the region.

These projects will involve thousands of people and patients across our region, tackling some of the biggest challenges in the diagnosis and treatment of a disease that kills around 14,000 people in Yorkshire every year. They will attract expertise from some of the best cancer research centres in the country and we are incredibly grateful to all of the charity's generous supporters for making this possible.

Funded Work

Improving cancer treatment

Yorkshire Cancer Research has joined forces with the University of Sheffield and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in a ground-breaking collaboration that will combine pioneering scientific and technological developments.

A £4.5m investment is being used to fund 10 of the UK's most promising researchers and cancer specialists. This expertise will further advance Sheffield as one of the best centres in the country for patient-focused cancer research.

Tackling cancer inequalities

We're working in partnership with the University of Hull, the Hull York Medical School and Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver a series of five-year research projects that will improve the experience of cancer patients and ensure more people in the city survive the disease.

This £4.9m initiative will focus on ensuring that patients are diagnosed at the earliest possible stage and that they have equal access to the very best treatments and supportive care.

Wise Up To Cancer

To help raise awareness of cancer and how to prevent it, we invested in community health initiative, ‘Wise Up To Cancer’ which aims to; reduce the number of people who get cancer by promoting healthy lifestyles and increase participation in national screening programmes to facilitate an early diagnosis.

Stop smoking
Eat well
Drink less alcohol
Keep active
Stay safe in the sun
Increasing Patient Numbers

Since 2014, we have put Yorkshire people at the centre of our approach.

The number of people involved in our research has risen dramatically as a consequence, from 700 in 2014 to more than 49,000 in 2017.

It is well proven that cancer patients are more likely to survive cancer when treated at hospitals where a high level of clinical research is taking place.

Gary Chappell

Bladder cancer patients are often faced with a life-changing decision to have their bladder removed completely or to undergo a three-year course of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) treatment.

These two very different options have never been compared directly and patients find it difficult to find good evidence to inform and support their choice of treatment.

This means patients are forced to choose between major surgery that has high short-term risks and life-altering consequences, or a lengthy course of treatment that may have side-effects and could fail to stop the cancer progressing.

After the issue was raised by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) as one of the top five bladder cancer research priorities, Yorkshire Cancer Research announced funding for a clinical trial led by Professor Jim Catto, Professor of Urology at the University of Sheffield.

Half of the patients who take part in the trial will receive BCG therapy and half will undergo full bladder removal.

The trial is being run by the University of Sheffield and is currently recruiting patients from hospitals across Yorkshire, including 71-year-old Gary Chappell from Sheffield, who had his bladder and prostate gland removed after having his treatment determined by the trial.

I hope that by being a part of this important research I will help others going through the same experience.

Gary Chappell
Patient
The charity needs to secure more than £10m a year to meet its goal of investing £100m in research in order to save 2,000 lives a year by 2025.

2016-17 saw a transition in our fundraising strategy to include the forming of beneficial partnerships. A programme was developed to help businesses across the region educate and encourage employees to avoid cancer risks and spot signs and symptoms earlier. In return, participating businesses support their staff in team building events and activities designed to raise funds for Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Events ranging from art exhibitions and cricket matches to the Great North Run raised over £600,000 during the year. A similar amount was raised by individuals making a monthly donation. The charity’s 36 amazing Local Voluntary Committees raised over £485,000 by organising fundraising events in their own communities.

Such fundraising is only possible with the commitment and support of many individual fundraisers such as Lynn Stabler and volunteer groups like the Selby fundraising committee that Doreen Holmes supports.

Long-term Strategy

In 2016/2017...

- 471 people ran 4,035 miles
- 1,090 cyclists got on their bikes and cycled 73,900 miles
- Local Voluntary Committees held 26 coffee mornings serving 1,612 cups of tea and countless cakes

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Lynne’s Story

41-year-old Lynne Stabler took up running in 2013 and soon after joined Beverley AC. She ran the 2014 Hull 10K after her sister-in-law passed away from cancer in 2012 and in 2016 she supported the charity once again at the Great North Run.

She said: “I had always wanted to take part in the Great North Run and Yorkshire Cancer Research was the obvious choice of charity to raise money for, especially after I was diagnosed with skin cancer earlier in the year. When you hear the ‘C’ word it’s upsetting and scary, especially when you’re not expecting it! But with the love and support of family and friends, and the marvellous doctors and nurses at Hull Royal Infirmary, I’m completely fine.”

It was great to wear the Yorkshire Cancer Research vest and get support around the course. I can vouch that the charity is very supportive and appreciative of all you do!

Lynne Stabler
Fundraiser

Doreen’s Story

Yorkshire Cancer Research’s longest serving volunteer

In June 2016, we awarded long-service certificates to 50 volunteers from our voluntary fundraising committees across the region.

Among them was Doreen Holmes, who is the charity’s longest serving volunteer. Doreen, has been a member of our Selby Committee for five decades.

Doreen said: “We began by organising house to house collections. We also held two market stalls per year selling cakes, and organised two ballroom dances each year including one on Valentine’s Day. We do all kinds of different things now, like fashion shows and concerts.”

It’s very nice to be recognised and I was very emotional, but you don’t do it for a reward. The treatment of cancer has progressed so much in the last 50 years. We had no smear tests for cervical cancer in the 1960s, but now many women survive because of screening. I feel very proud to have played a part in this progress and to have funded research here in Yorkshire. I will keep going as long as I can.

Doreen Holmes
Volunteer