



Yorkshire Cancer
Research



Research Strategy

Registered Charity Number 516898 (England and Wales)

Every 17 minutes, someone in Yorkshire is told they have cancer

Yorkshire Cancer Research exists so that more people can live longer healthier lives, free of cancer. Thanks to supporters, the charity has been funding research and saving lives since 1925 – in Yorkshire, and beyond.

Foreword: Funding research that saves lives in Yorkshire

Yorkshire is one of the regions hardest hit by cancer. Sadly, people in the region are more likely to have their lives cut short by cancer than almost anywhere else in England.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is dedicated to changing this.

Our vision is that people in Yorkshire live longer healthier lives, free of cancer.

Our mission is to take action today to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer more effectively in Yorkshire.

The charity believes in research-led innovation and all our charitable activities focus on delivering solutions and real benefits for people in Yorkshire.

We are committed to investing in groundbreaking research and our annual research funding call invites applications in the following topics:

1. Reducing the risk of developing cancer
2. Improving early diagnosis and cancer screening
3. Improving treatments
4. Reducing cancer-related health inequalities

The goal for any project submitted to the round must be to save or extend lives and, where possible, most recruitment should be from within the region. All projects must be testing an intervention, with the emphasis on solving problems rather than describing them and all interventions under investigation must be sufficiently developed or evidence-based to support testing in the population. Applicants must consider and provide details of how they will seek to recruit populations that are representative of the Yorkshire population with the condition under investigation. Finally, involvement of people affected by cancer is core to all work across the charity and is also a vital component of high-quality clinical research. People affected by cancer must be involved in the design and delivery of the

research and all applications will need a named lay representative as part of their application.

As Yorkshire's cancer charity, we are committed to funding research that helps save lives in Yorkshire. The charity's impact, however, will be felt by people everywhere as research knowledge is shared with the wider cancer research community. Together we can change Yorkshire's cancer story and help create a cancer-free future.



Dr Stuart Griffiths
Director of
Research, Policy and Impact

Contents

Foreword	03
-----------------	-----------

Purpose and impact

Our purpose	06
-------------	----

Our values	07
------------	----

Our impact	08
------------	----

Research Strategy

Charity strategy overview	10
---------------------------	----

Action Research	11
-----------------	----

Research-Backed Services	14
--------------------------	----

Research-Active Region	17
------------------------	----

For Everyone	20
--------------	----

Shaped by People	23
------------------	----

Our annual funding round

Research funding overview	27
---------------------------	----

Applying for funding	28
----------------------	----

Assessment of funding applications	29
------------------------------------	----

Life years gained	30
-------------------	----

Regional focus	31
----------------	----

Inclusive research	32
--------------------	----

Patient and public involvement	33
--------------------------------	----

Appendix	34
----------	----

References	35
------------	----

Purpose and impact



Our purpose

Sadly, people in Yorkshire are more likely to have their lives cut short by cancer than almost anywhere else in England.

As Yorkshire's cancer charity, Yorkshire Cancer Research is dedicated to changing this.

Our aim is for more people in Yorkshire to survive cancer each year. To achieve this, the charity funds vital cancer research and pioneers innovative new cancer services, helping to protect and save lives across the region.

Our Vision and Mission

Our Vision

People in Yorkshire live longer, healthier lives, free of cancer.

Our Mission

Taking action today to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer more effectively in Yorkshire.

Our values

The Yorkshire Cancer Research values underpin all the charity's work. They serve as a compass for the charity's actions and reflect its behaviours. Our values shape the tone of how we work together – with supporters, partners and, importantly, people with cancer. Together with the charity's vision, they are the foundation of the charity's culture. Our values inspire and unite people in common purpose – to help more people live longer healthier lives, free of cancer.

Our values

Here for Yorkshire

The needs of people in Yorkshire come first. They are at the heart of everything we do.

United by the cause

We collaborate with each other and with other organisations, united by a shared vision – a Yorkshire free from cancer.

Thinking big and bold

We deliver world-leading research and services. We dare to think differently.

Making it happen

We create and build solutions. We approach our work with positivity, energy and drive.

Giving people more years of life

Every week in Yorkshire, 600 people are told they have cancer and 250 people sadly have their lives cut short by the disease.

Our impact

Yorkshire Cancer Research funds world-leading research, pioneers new treatments and brings vital clinical trials to people across Yorkshire.

Research and services funded by the charity will give people in Yorkshire - and beyond - many more years to spend with family and loved ones. What's more, groundbreaking research trialled in Yorkshire is contributing to global improvements in cancer outcomes.

Research Strategy

Charity strategy overview

The Yorkshire Cancer Research strategy describes the actions the charity is taking today to help prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. It explains the charity's life-giving work, made possible thanks to supporters. Together, the five strategic aims demonstrate how Yorkshire Cancer Research is making a unique and vital contribution to the lives of people with cancer, the Yorkshire region and the world of cancer research.

Action Research



Bring **clinical research** to people in Yorkshire to reduce incidence, cancer deaths and years lost to cancer.

Research-Backed Service



Deliver our own **evidence-based** services to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Research-Active Region



Work with Yorkshire hospitals and universities to grow cancer research **talent and capacity** for the benefit of everyone in the region.

For Everyone



Reduce **health inequalities** so people in Yorkshire receive the best cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment – whoever they are, wherever they live.

Shaped by People



People affected by cancer shape our work.

Action Research

Bringing clinical research to people in Yorkshire.

Whether trialling new treatments or finding ways to prevent cancer, Yorkshire Cancer Research is taking action to bring clinical research to our region so people in Yorkshire can benefit from potentially life-saving innovations. This vital research helps reduce incidence, cancer deaths and years lost to cancer.

Thanks to supporters, Yorkshire Cancer Research is the biggest funder of cancer research study places in Yorkshire. Since 2015, nearly 130,000 people have had the opportunity to take part in world-leading research funded by the charity.

From investigating new ways to treat bowel cancer to exploring how genetic testing can be introduced to prevent cancer and find it early, these studies are driving forward important advances.

While pioneering vital breakthroughs, the charity's research is having a real-time impact for people with cancer in Yorkshire and beyond, saving lives and reducing years of life lost to cancer.



Professor Jenny Seligmann
Consultant Medical
Oncologist, University
of Leeds

"The FOxTROT trials are providing an opportunity to take part in life-saving research and helping bring gold standard treatment to hospitals."



Professor Ranjit Manchanda
Professor of Gynaecological
Oncology, Queen Mary
University of London

"PROTECT-C is a critically important and exciting study. Broadening genetic testing for cancer genes could prevent thousands more cancers, saving many lives."

6,800

people have had improved cancer treatment due to taking part in research funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research since 2015



FOxTROT bowel cancer trials

Lead researchers: **Professor Jenny Seligmann and Professor Dion Morton**

Hundreds of newly diagnosed people with bowel cancer have signed up to take part in the FOxTROT 2 and 3 clinical trials funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Previous studies have shown that giving chemotherapy before surgery can reduce complications following surgery and reduce the likelihood of the cancer coming back.

Now researchers at the University of Leeds and the University of Birmingham are investigating whether it is better to give chemotherapy before surgery to people with bowel cancer who are either aged over 70 or have other significant medical conditions.

They are also exploring whether an intensified course of chemotherapy before surgery works better than the usual chemotherapy treatment.



PROTECT-C genetic screening trial

Lead researcher: **Professor Ranjit Manchanda**

The PROTECT-C trial is investigating the concept of offering women tests to find out if they are at high risk of developing cancer.

Up to 12 in 100 cancers are caused by genetic defects, yet the majority of people with these genetic defects do not know about them.

The trial, led by researchers at Queen Mary University of London, will offer genetic screening to 5,000 women from Yorkshire and across the UK. It is estimated that 19,000 women in Yorkshire have the genetic defects the PROTECT-C trial will look for, but 97% are unidentified.

Those found to be at increased risk can have regular screening and may have preventative medicine or surgery to stop cancers developing.



IMProVE prostate screening trial

Lead researchers: **Professor James Catto and Professor Peter Sasieni**

Funding has been announced for a new clinical trial that will explore whether a prostate screening programme that combines blood tests and MRI scans can save lives.

People in some communities are more likely to be diagnosed with prostate cancer at a late stage and less likely to be tested. The trial will explore how screening can be introduced without widening disparities.

The trial will also explore how screening can ensure only those who need treatment receive it, because current testing methods mean some men receive treatment for prostate cancer that wouldn't have harmed them.

Led by researchers at the University of Sheffield and Queen Mary University of London, the trial will involve 4,500 men in Yorkshire.

Bill's experience

Bill Hall, a 72-year-old GP from York, was diagnosed with bowel cancer in January 2024 after noticing "a squelchy sensation" in his abdomen.

After being sent to hospital for a scan and blood tests by his GP, a tumour was found on his colon.

Before beginning his treatment, he was invited to take part in the FOxTROT 3 trial funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research.

Bill said: "The chemotherapy before my surgery made the tumour much smaller and the surrounding tissue easier to remove. As a result, the procedure was done through keyhole surgery, assisted by a robot, leaving minimal damage and no complications."

Following his surgery, Bill had a second course of chemotherapy on the FOxTROT 3 trial.

He added: "The post-surgery chemotherapy was very successful, and I was surprised at how quickly I was able to focus on getting back to normal life."

Bill is now having six-monthly appointments to hopefully confirm the cancer has not returned.

"The post-surgery chemotherapy was very successful, and I was surprised at how quickly I was able to focus on getting back to normal life."

Bill Hall
York



Research-Backed Services

Delivering our own evidence-based services to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is taking action by bringing services backed by science and evidence to people in Yorkshire. These services are grounded in data that demonstrates they effectively prevent cancer and improve survival rates.

The charity is funding stop smoking support services across the region, which include personalised support and stop smoking aids such as nicotine replacement therapy and vaping products. Smoking is responsible for nearly 15% of all cases of cancer in Yorkshire. People are up to three times more likely to stop smoking for good with professional support.

In addition, the charity is funding cancer exercise treatment (exercise, nutrition and wellbeing services) across Yorkshire to help people prepare for and recover from cancer treatment. Research shows that regular activity before, during and after cancer treatment can lead to increased survival and improved recovery and help reduce the risk of cancer coming back.

Through these targeted initiatives, the charity is making a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of people across the region, ensuring everyone can live longer, healthier lives.



Dr Julian Ting
Consultant in Respiratory
Medicine, Leeds Teaching
Hospitals NHS Trust

“The Leeds Hospitals programme will have had a significant impact on reducing re-admissions and mortality among patients admitted to hospital who smoke.”



Professor Robert Copeland
Director of the Advanced
Wellbeing Research Centre,
Sheffield Hallam University

“The results from Active Together demonstrate the transformative potential of integrating physical activity, nutrition and psychological support into cancer care.”

4,800

people have quit smoking with support from a Yorkshire Cancer Research funded service since 2019

1,940

people have been supported by Active Together since the programme began in 2021



Stop smoking support services

Yorkshire Cancer Research funds a free stop smoking support service for people in Yorkshire. The charity also works in partnership with hospital trusts and local authorities to help people quit successfully.

During 2024/25, the charity's own service helped 170 people successfully quit smoking through face-to-face, phone and video support.

In addition, thousands of hospital patients treated through Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System have been offered stop smoking support at their bedsides.

The charity supports the use of vaping as a tool to quit smoking and has spearheaded programmes to improve access to vapes. A trial funded by the charity in Calderdale has demonstrated that offering free vape kits to people who smoke significantly boosts quit rates.



Active Together

Active Together is a research-backed cancer exercise treatment programme funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research and designed by Sheffield Hallam University's Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre.

The exercise, nutrition and wellbeing programme has been associated with 10% higher one-year survival rate and significantly lower NHS treatment costs.

The programme offers free, personalised support provided by qualified cancer professionals based on individual needs and treatment.

Almost 2,000 people across Yorkshire have been supported by the service, which has been rolled out to Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham, Barnsley, Harrogate, Wakefield and North Kirklees. People with cancer in Hull will also receive Active Together support at a dedicated centre opening in the city in autumn 2025, and people treated for cancer at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust will soon start to be supported by Active Together.

Karen's experience

Karen Nile, 50, from Sheffield, was diagnosed with bowel cancer in March 2023. Within days, she was referred to Active Together to prepare for major surgery scheduled two months later.

Karen said: "Active Together held my hand right from the beginning, starting with pre-surgery preparation. They prescribed specific walking speeds and provided nutritional guidance to ensure I was as strong as possible before surgery. Afterwards, they provided details of safe and effective exercises designed especially for people with stomas."

During six months of chemotherapy, the Active Together team maintained regular contact through assessments and practical support.

Karen added: "What makes this programme so special is how it creates a complete support network – physical, nutritional and emotional. Having a team that truly sees you as an individual and understands exactly where you are in your recovery journey is invaluable."

Active
Together:

1,940

people across Yorkshire
supported through the
Active Together programme

*"What makes this
programme so special
is how it creates
a complete support
network."*

Karen Nile
Sheffield



Research-Active Region

Working with Yorkshire hospitals and universities to grow cancer research talent and capacity for the benefit of everyone in the region.

People with cancer treated at research-active hospitals are proven to do better than those treated where there is little or no clinical research.

This is because hospitals with active clinical research often have access to the latest advancements in cancer treatment, innovative therapies and cutting-edge technologies, which can significantly improve survival.

With the support of charity funding, talented and established researchers can also attract further research investment, creating even greater benefits for those living in Yorkshire.

This funding can support additional clinical trials and investment in state-of-the-art medical equipment, helping many more people with cancer.

Creating hubs of cancer research excellence in Yorkshire is a crucial part of the charity's goal for a Yorkshire free from cancer.



Claire Woodward
Programmes and Planning
Manager, Sheffield Hallam
University

“The Fellowship exchange programme contributes to our mission to advance understanding of the benefits of physical activity, here in Sheffield and globally.”



Professor Philip Quirke
Professor of Pathology,
University of Leeds

“Thanks to funding provided by Yorkshire Cancer Research for the Bowel Cancer Improvement Programme, we have changed the face of bowel cancer surgery.”

Yorkshire Cancer Research aims to save lives by investing in research and fostering innovation and collaboration outside the traditional “golden triangle” of established research centres in London, Oxford and Cambridge.

22

early-career researchers are supported by **£9.3 million** of funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research



Investing in places

Yorkshire Cancer Research is creating a thriving hub of cancer research in Sheffield to help transform the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Building on an investment of £8.9 million in 2023/24, the charity has now provided a further £8.3 million in funding for projects that will aim to accelerate the understanding of cancer and find cures that will save lives in the region and beyond.

The new research will focus on key themes such as the use of cutting-edge technologies to improve the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and exploring new ways to personalise treatment so care can be precisely tailored to each patient.



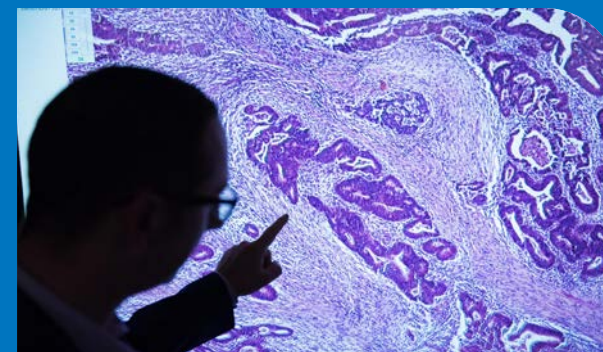
Investing in people

Yorkshire Cancer Research has funded Fellowships and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at universities across Yorkshire for many years.

As well as helping to develop researchers of the future and retain Yorkshire's talented experts, funding these roles provides an important contribution to the region's research achievements, enhancing research reputation and attracting further funding.

Since 2015, a group of Research Fellows funded at the University of Leeds and Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust have helped secure an additional £75.9 million in research grant funding and have influenced practice regionally and internationally through more than 500 research journals. Some are now leading large Yorkshire Cancer Research studies with many focusing on improving radiotherapy.

During 2024/25, Yorkshire Cancer Research agreed funding for four new PhDs at the University of Hull. The charity is also supporting a Fellowship exchange programme between Sheffield and Athens, funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.



Growing Yorkshire's research capacity

Thanks to funding from Yorkshire Cancer Research, the University of Leeds is now recognised as a centre of excellence for bowel cancer research with researchers who are part of a global team of experts working to transform bowel cancer care.

The Bowel Cancer Improvement Programme aims to address differences in the way hospitals treat cancer so everyone receives "gold standard" treatment. The programme builds on four decades of research underpinned by funding from the charity, which paved the way for millions of pounds of further investment.

Following the charity's funding of the FOxTROT clinical trials, investment for five further studies has been secured. This has enabled the development of an extensive international clinical trials programme which involves hundreds of patients across the region and throughout the UK.

Finding new and better ways to save more lives

Professor Jenny Seligmann first joined forces with Yorkshire Cancer Research in 2019, when the charity awarded her a five-year Fellowship to pursue bowel cancer research at the University of Leeds.

Jenny later became part of the team behind the international FOXTROT 1 clinical trial that explored whether offering chemotherapy to people with bowel cancer before surgery could save lives.

Seeking to build on these findings, Jenny has gone on to lead further studies, including a programme of world-leading bowel cancer clinical trials exploring the best types of chemotherapy and other drug treatments to give before surgery.

The FOXTROT team is already seeing the life-saving benefits of these trials for people with bowel cancer, not only in Yorkshire, but across the UK and in countries around the world.

***“Jenny was an
outstanding candidate
and a bundle of energy.
You could just tell she
was going to be a star.”***

Dr Kathryn Scott
Chief Executive,
Yorkshire Cancer Research



For Everyone

Reducing health inequalities so people in Yorkshire receive the best cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment – whoever they are, wherever they live.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is playing a crucial role in addressing regional cancer inequalities through both research and engagement with political leaders and influencers.

Cancer disproportionately affects people in lower socioeconomic groups and from certain ethnic communities.

People from some areas are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer, more likely to be diagnosed at a late stage and less likely to survive.

There are many barriers that affect a person's likelihood of getting an early diagnosis and effective treatment, including limited access to healthcare, financial constraints and travel difficulties.

Yorkshire has many deprived communities, so addressing health disparities is core to achieving the charity's aim to save lives.

People in every part of Yorkshire have the opportunity to take part in our research and services.



Dr Matthew Kurien
Consultant Gastroenterologist,
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

“The DETECT-CRC study aims to improve early detection through innovation, prevent unnecessary deaths and uplift deprived groups often most affected by health inequalities.”



Aliya Darr
Research Fellow,
Muslim Families Screening
4 Life

“Our Bradford study has shown that including the voice of individuals in research is crucial to improving cancer care.”

By advocating for equity and growing understanding of how cancer impacts disadvantaged communities, we strive to ensure everyone has the best possible opportunity for early diagnosis and effective treatment.

1,400

people will be recruited to awards focusing on inequalities in the South Asian community and the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma community



Muslim Families Screening 4 Life

Lead researchers: **Dr Melanie Cooper and Professor Marcus Rattray**

Muslim South Asian women living in Bradford are significantly less likely to have cervical, breast and bowel screening.

This means thousands are missing out on these important tests which can both prevent cancer and find it early.

Over the past three years, researchers at the University of Bradford have consulted more than 1,000 people from the South Asian community, including Leaders and Imams, to find new ways to encourage women to be screened.

New information and resources have been shared with thousands of people living in Bradford through mosques, madrassas, educational settings, youth groups and peer support groups.



DETECT-CRC

Lead researcher: **Dr Matthew Kurien and Professor Daniel Hind**

People with “red flag” bowel cancer symptoms living in South Yorkshire’s most deprived communities are being offered home test kits when they visit community pharmacies.

Researchers at the University of Sheffield aim to demonstrate how pharmacies can be used to speed up the detection of bowel cancer.

A shortage of GPs in deprived areas means people have more difficulty booking appointments, so providing tests through pharmacies could help by fast-tracking people to hospital.

People living in these communities have also been found to be less likely to recognise symptoms of bowel cancer, so they’re often diagnosed at a late stage. They are also less likely to take part in the national bowel screening programme.



DOORstep

Lead researchers: **Dr Charlotte Kelly**

Through a study funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research, thousands of women registered at eight GP practices across Hull and East Riding are being offered free door-to-door transport to their breast screening appointments.

Researchers at the Hull York Medical School and the University of Hull aim to find out whether bookable transport is an effective way to increase the number of women attending their screenings.

Kingston upon Hull is the most deprived local authority area in Yorkshire and the fourth most deprived area in the country. 3 in 10 people in Hull do not attend breast screening when invited.

Changing Yorkshire's cancer story

The Yorkshire Cancer Research White Rose Cancer Report sets out four key recommendations for a National Cancer Plan with the aim of improving Yorkshire's cancer outcomes and reducing inequalities.

These are:

1

Focus on cancer prevention

- Commit to a smoke-free future for Yorkshire and introduce a plan to tackle alcohol and obesity.

2

Make early cancer diagnosis a priority

- Improve awareness of cancer signs and symptoms and make access to cancer screening easier.

3

Improve cancer treatments

- Introduce personalised exercise, nutrition and wellbeing programmes delivered by cancer specialists.
- Invest in regional healthcare to reduce cancer waiting times and provide the best possible treatment.

4

Invest fairly in cancer research for Yorkshire

- Create more opportunities for people in Yorkshire to take part in cancer research.

As the Government prepares to publish its National Cancer Plan in 2025, the charity is continuing to ensure Yorkshire's voice is listened to and shines through in a strategy that is built for and with the people who need it.



Shaped by People

People affected by cancer shape our work.

The experiences of people affected by cancer are the foundation of the charity's mission, shaping every aspect of its efforts to create a Yorkshire free from cancer.

From influencing research funded by the charity to helping to develop impactful fundraising campaigns, tailoring services to meet the needs of local populations and bringing the voice of those with experience of cancer into our advocacy activity, people are at the heart of our work.

Yorkshire Cancer Research is profoundly grateful for the contributions of all those who volunteer their time and experiences to drive advances in cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment, not only through our own work, but also throughout the lifetime of research and service projects the charity funds.

It is only by listening to the people of Yorkshire and those affected by cancer that we can make sure our work addresses the needs of the people it is designed to support. These critical insights guide the charity's approach, ensuring that its work is deeply rooted in the challenges faced by those affected by cancer and helps find solutions that have the power to change lives.



Pete Wheatstone
Patient and Public
Representative, FOxTROT 2
and 3 clinical trials

***"I contribute because
I want to say thank you for
the treatment I received,
and I also want to make
it better for future patients."***



Peter Hogg
Research Advisory
Panel member

***"There's a vibrancy on the
Panel that makes sessions
really stimulating. It's a
melting pot of people,
all bringing their unique
opinions."***

640

people affected by cancer and members of
the public are involved in shaping our current
research and service projects



Research Advisory Panel

The charity's Research Advisory Panel has benefited from a boost in members following an appeal launched across Yorkshire.

The Panel includes cancer experts and people with experience of cancer who help ensure the charity funds research that best fits with its mission: taking action today to have the biggest impact on cancer for people in Yorkshire.

During 2024 the Panel was strengthened to include a diverse range of voices, including people who have received a cancer diagnosis, friends and family of people with cancer, people who have worked in healthcare and other interested members of the public.

People on the Panel provide invaluable insights and perspectives in the funding process and help improve the quality of new research.



Patient and public involvement and engagement

As well as growing the Research Advisory Panel, Yorkshire Cancer Research has started the process of creating a new Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement programme.

The programme involves a community of people with experience of cancer who provide feedback on ideas and issues and help the charity better meet the needs of more people in Yorkshire.

Whether through interviews, surveys, focus groups or informal conversations, the experiences of this community are a vital way to learn from people affected by cancer.

By involving patients, carers, and the public, the charity can fund more effective and meaningful research, deliver improved services and share more tailored communications.



Involving people in research

During 2024/25, 17,000 people signed up to take part in cancer research and services funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research.

In addition, the charity's work benefited from the contributions of thousands more people across the region and beyond who shared their expertise, experiences or data to shape research and deepen the understanding of cancer.

Researchers must involve the public in the design and development of research proposals. They are also expected to obtain input from patients and members of the public throughout the course of the study.

From addressing ethical concerns to providing diverse insights, people help make the charity's research process more democratic, ethical, and effective.

Saima's experience

After being successfully treated for oral cancer, Leeds mother-of-four Saima Javeed now plays a vital role in shaping cancer research in Yorkshire.

As a member of the charity's Research Advisory Panel, Saima draws on her personal experience to help assess funding applications and ensure research has the greatest impact on local communities.

With a Master's degree in Social and Political Thought, she brings a unique perspective to the Panel, advocating for projects that address health inequalities and promote inclusion.

Saima is especially passionate about supporting research that involves underrepresented groups, such as the IMProVE prostate cancer screening trial, which focuses on men who are at higher risk of developing the disease.

She said: "Yorkshire has such a diverse population so it's great to see Yorkshire Cancer Research engaging in work that directly addresses health inequalities and involves people from all different backgrounds."

"Research is the backbone of the treatment, prevention and cure for cancer. I'm proud to use my experience of cancer to help others and to play a tiny, but important part in bringing pioneering research to the region."

Saima Javeed
Research Advisory Panel member



Our annual funding round

Research funding



£75
million

Yorkshire Cancer Research is currently funding £75m of cancer research and services.



182,000
people

182,000 people have the opportunity to take part in cancer research and services funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research.



750
cancer experts

750 researchers, experts and delivery staff are working with Yorkshire Cancer Research.



26
clinical trials

Yorkshire Cancer Research is funding 59 programmes, including 26 clinical trials.

Applying for funding



Through our annual funding round, we offer funding for high-quality clinical research projects in the following topics:

- 1. Prevention*
- 2. Screening / early diagnosis*
- 3. Improving treatment*
- 4. Addressing health inequalities*

The proposed work should have the potential to reduce incidence of cancer in a given population, to increase survival and/or reduce life years lost to cancer (but not at the expense of quality of life), during the course of the project and beyond.

Applicants can be based anywhere in the UK, but recruitment of participants must take place from within the region with as many Yorkshire recruitment sites as possible (or relevant).

Assessment of funding applications

We are a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) and all applications undergo robust review in accordance with the expert review principles and guidance provided by AMRC.

Our funding round is run in open, national competition and involves a two-stage application process comprising an initial short preliminary application form and a more detailed full application form. Preliminary applications are reviewed by stakeholder (lay) members of our Research Advisory Panel (RAP) and those applications that are invited to the full application stage undergo further expert peer review by a combination of expert RAP members and other national and international experts relevant to the application.

When scoring applications, review panel members are asked to consider impact against our Research Strategy, specifically the potential for gaining life years, the inclusivity of the research, the involvement of patients and the public and the role of the research in supporting Yorkshire to be a Research-Active Region.



Successful applicants are asked to provide data throughout their study to allow us to monitor progress and impact against our strategic aims.

For full details of the application process and open funding calls visit:

▶ <https://www.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk/for-professionals/research/apply-for-funding>



Life years gained

Life years gained has been chosen as one measure of our impact as it is a suitable overarching metric that Awards across all areas of strategic focus may contribute towards. It is driven by the number of cancer deaths avoided (through cancers prevented and cancers treated effectively) and lives extended through improved survival (even if a cancer death is not avoidable).



There are many ways to calculate life years gained from an avoided or delayed cancer death, ranging from complex to simplistic methodologies. For our purposes and in order to calculate life years gained, along with asking applicants to estimate the outputs of the research, Yorkshire Cancer Research asks applicants to estimate the future potential outcomes, including:

The number of cancers prevented

The number of people who survive their cancer for more than five years since diagnosis (who would not have done in the absence of the research) - this will be considered a life saved

The number of people who survive their cancer for longer (but do not survive beyond five years since diagnosis) - this will be considered a life extended

This information, along with estimated recruitment data for age and biological sex, is then used to calculate the number of life years gained a research project might lead to, using data from the National Life Tables.

This information is collected during the application process, and for any successful applicants on an annual basis through the Annual Data Collection Form.



Regional focus

We want to ensure we attract and fund the best, high-quality research for the people of Yorkshire. As a result, our funding round is run in national competition and open to applicants from across the country.

However, all applicants must maximise recruitment from within the Yorkshire region, with as many people from within the region given the opportunity to participate as possible.

Applicants should demonstrate how they will work with Yorkshire hospitals and universities to grow cancer research talent and capacity for the benefit of everyone in the region.

Inclusive research

To help address health inequalities, and in keeping with the recommendations from the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Medical Research (now superseded by the APPG on Life Sciences) [5], the charity expects research to be inclusive, and that study populations are representative of the relevant patient population in Yorkshire.

Applicants will be required to describe how this will be achieved and reasonable costs associated with additional activities needed to ensure inclusive recruitment will be supported.

For topic 4, applicants will need to describe fully the approach they will take to recruit from the specific target population, taking account of any extra time and costs needed to support this.

This may include consideration of eligibility criteria, recruitment sites, methods of recruitment, existing community links and community engagement activities.



Patient and public involvement

Stakeholder (lay) members of our Research Advisory Panel are involved in assessment of all research applications that are submitted for funding.

At the preliminary stage, through the Strategic Fit Meeting, they determine which applications are invited to progress to the full application stage. At the full application stage, they attend the Research Advisory Meeting and sit alongside expert panel members and their views are regarded equally when considering whether projects should be funded or not.

We encourage all research projects to be co-designed with patients and the public and all projects must involve patients and the public throughout the development, delivery and dissemination of their research.

Applicants will need to evidence this in their applications as it will contribute to the scoring.



Appendix

	Life Years Lost (2023) ¹		Incidence (2021) ²		Mortality (2023) ¹		Percentage attributed to preventable factors ³	Percentage diagnosed at early stage (2021) ⁴	1 year survival (2020) ⁵	5 year survival (2016) ⁵
	Rank by number of life years lost	Estimated number of life years lost	Rank by number of cases	Number of cases	Rank by number of deaths	Number of deaths				
Lung	1	37,900	2	4,285	1	2,790	78.80%	32.30%	45.40%	21.00%
Bowel	2	17,943	4	3,885	2	1,321	54.10%	47.00%	78.50%	58.40%
Breast	3	14,750	1	4,432	4	886	22.90%	84.80%	96.10%	85.90%
Pancreas	4	11,657	8	963	5	835	31.20%	25.30%	27.70%	8.30%
Oesophagus	5	8,705	11	777	6	606	58.70%	17.50%	46.80%	18.00%
Prostate	6	8,421	3	4,032	3	989	n/a	44.30%	97.10%	88.50%
Liver	7	7,399	15	518	7	520	48.30%	n/a	39.80%	13.40%
Brain*	8	7,163	17	452	11	348	2.50%	n/a	41.70%	n/a
Leukaemia	9	5,561	10	814	10	384	12.00%	n/a	74.40%	55.90%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	10	5,473	9	945	9	413	3.40%	29.70%	79.30%	65.60%
Bladder	11	5,023	7	986	8	489	48.60%	64.50%	73.50%	52.20%
Ovary	12	4,785	14	573	14	284	11.10%	37.00%	72.30%	45.00%
Kidney	13	4,623	6	1,044	12	342	33.50%	59.50%	81.00%	66.60%
Stomach	14	4,483	13	586	13	316	53.10%	n/a	50.00%	23.90%
Uterus	15	3,186	12	757	17	204	34.40%	81.90%	89.30%	75.40%
Skin	16	2,943	5	1,354	16	207	86.80%	n/a	98.00%	92.60%
Multiple Myeloma	17	2,942	16	473	15	268	13.60%	n/a	83.80%	n/a
Cervical	18	1,928	18	248	19	77	99.80%	n/a	81.70%	61.40%
Gallbladder	19	1,156	19	126	18	82	19.90%	n/a	30.70%	n/a

1 <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/mortsa>

2 <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/cancer-registration-statistics/england-2021---summary-counts-only>

3 Brown, K.F., et.al., 2018. The fraction of cancer attributable to modifiable risk factors in England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom in 2015. British journal of cancer, 118(8), p.1130. <http://www.nature.com/articles/s41416-018-0029-6> (England data).

4 <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/case-mix-adjusted-percentage-of-cancers-diagnosed-at-stages-1-and-2-in-england/2021>

5 Cancer Survival in England, cancers diagnosed 2016 to 2020, followed up to 2021 - NHS Digital (England data).

*Incidence for brain cancer is 2019 data.

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