

**STRATEGIC VISION
TO IMPROVE NURSING
CARE PROVISION TO
TEENAGERS AND YOUNG
ADULTS WITH CANCER**

Authors

Sam Smith - Head of Nursing and Clinical Services, Teenage Cancer Trust

Sue Morgan - Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse Consultant

Louise Soanes - Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse Consultant

Contributors

Members of the Nurses Professional Forum

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WHY FOCUS ON NURSING?

Teenage Cancer Trust is an independent charity working to provide high quality and specialist care to teenagers and young adults with cancer. Teenage Cancer Trust believes nursing and nurses are fundamental to the delivery of such high quality holistic care, and over the past three decades have led the way in the development, funding and recognition of teenage and young adult (TYA) cancer nursing as a distinct specialty.

This is the third Teenage Cancer Trust Nursing Strategy, building on the previous strategy published in 2012 it outlines our direction and initiatives to ensure we develop nurses, nursing and increase our reach to all TYA diagnosed with cancer. This nursing strategy is aligned to the Teenage Cancer Trust Strategy ⁽¹⁾ and the four national cancer strategies to provide consistent and effective care delivery to all TYA diagnosed with cancer. The nursing strategy is accompanied by an action plan and progress report as published in our Annual Nursing Achievements Report.

The current constraints facing the National Health Service (NHS) across the United Kingdom (UK), and their potential implications for TYA nursing, are acknowledged in each of the four country's cancer strategies ^(2,3,4,5). Recognising this Teenage Cancer Trust will continue to work in partnership with the NHS and other providers to improve service provision. Investing in specialist nursing across the UK will require commitment and resources to support the development, implementation and sustainment of an expert nursing workforce and ensure nurse leadership is at the heart of continuous improvement in the care young people with cancer receive.



“When you're really sick, that's when you need a Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse the most, to lift your mood and remind you that life doesn't stop just because of your diagnosis. The Nurses are always there to keep you going and not give up.”

Holly, 22

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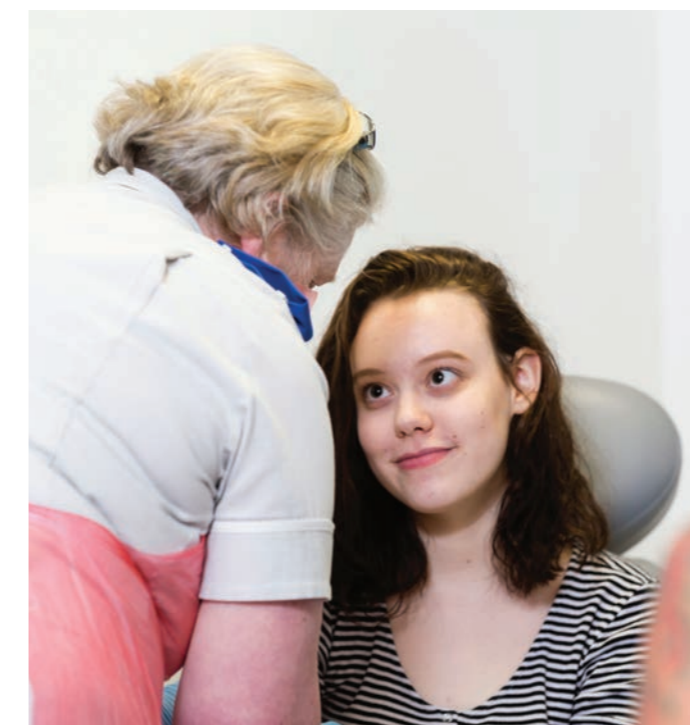
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**CURRENTLY TEENAGE
CANCER TRUST
NURSING SUPPORTS:**

- Informed patient choice
- Patient centred, holistic care
- Post-treatment support
- End of life support
- Bereavement support
- Clinical Nurse Specialists, who act as Key Workers for a caseload of patients to provide information, enable communication and coordinate care
- Embedding patient experience and involvement into workforce and service development



“By taking our nursing support into local hospitals and young people’s homes, we can show those that can’t get to a Teenage Cancer Trust unit that we are there for them and they don’t have to face cancer alone.”

Jax, Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse

NURSING PRIORITIES

The delivery of the nursing strategy will be driven by three activities.

1. EXPAND OUR NURSING WORKFORCE

Every 13-24-year-old diagnosed with cancer has the right to the best possible care, treatment and expert nursing support ⁽⁵⁾, achieving this and our aims and objectives over the coming years, Teenage Cancer Trust will increase the number of directly funded nurses. These nurses will be key to regional and local service improvement and practice innovations. We aim to review our provision of nurse consultants to reflect regional requirements to provide strong leadership and enable us to support, coach and mentor the growing nursing workforce. We will work in partnership with the NHS to collaborate with non-Teenage Cancer Trust funded nurses who work with TYA with cancer. We will offer them enhanced support and access to professional development through the established adoption process or other national, regional and local initiatives described in this strategy.

We will explore the potential of new roles within TYA Nursing (e.g. Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Research Nurses) to ensure we keep pace with the changing ways of delivering care, changes in NHS service provision and future opportunities for nursing.

Why is this important?

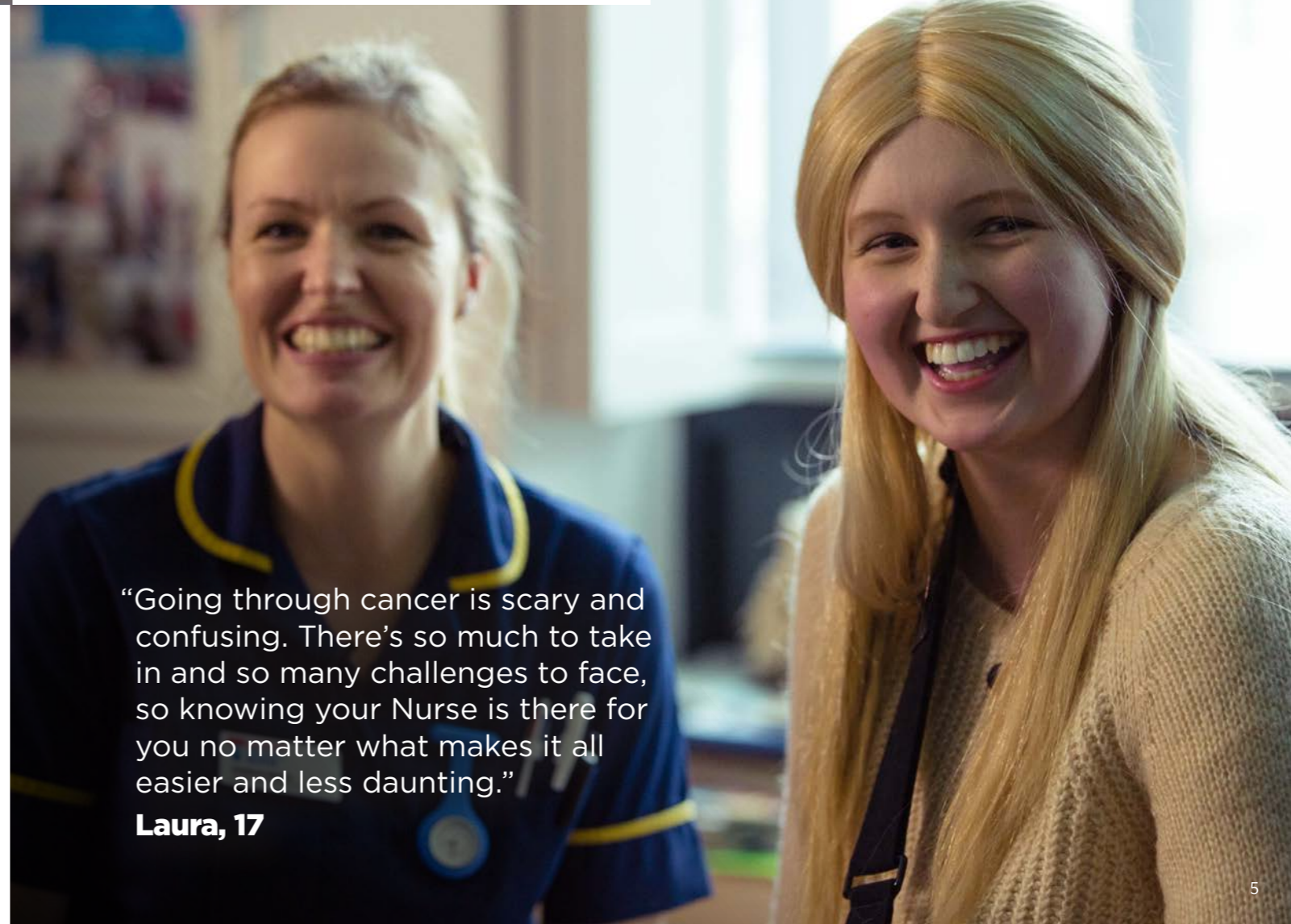
From now and for the next five to ten years the NHS is facing extremely challenging times. Under high levels of financial constraint, the NHS will be expected to deliver cancer care in new ways, and it is possible that we will see significant health service reforms and local/regional devolution of power and decision-making. It is vital that cost efficiencies the NHS will be required to make are not achieved through reduction in quality of nursing care in TYA cancer.

OUR VISION FOR NURSING

We aim to have an internationally recognised model of nursing care and a UK-wide network of high calibre and professionally competent specialist nurses who will strive to meet the needs of teenagers and young adults with cancer, working in partnership with patients, multidisciplinary teams, the NHS and other providers.

WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Providing a competent nursing workforce able to deliver holistic person centred care
- Enabling young people with cancer to experience continuity of care, that is well coordinated and responds to their individual needs over time
- Ensuring that every young person with cancer receives age-appropriate quality nursing care at the right time and in the right place for each individual
- Ensuring the nursing workforce has the skills, time and capacity to meet young people’s holistic needs
- Facilitating a nursing workforce that is able to collaborate and lead
- Developing a nursing workforce through the provision of education, training, professional development, supervision and support and achieve their full potential as leaders and role models in TYA cancer care
- Ensuring the nursing workforce is able to demonstrate, evidence based best practice and implementation of the philosophy of Teenage Cancer Trust ⁽⁶⁾



“Going through cancer is scary and confusing. There’s so much to take in and so many challenges to face, so knowing your Nurse is there for you no matter what makes it all easier and less daunting.”

Laura, 17

2. VALUE AND DEVELOP OUR NURSES

Teenage Cancer Trust believes that providing a highly competent and supported nursing workforce will have a direct effect on the quality of patient care young people receive and we want to ensure we retain our expert nurses in whom we have invested. We must ensure that our nurses have a positive experience of working in this speciality.

Regardless of funding or adoption we will ensure we have high calibre nurses and a progressive and developing workforce. We will create regional network of nursing, led by the Consultant Nurses in partnership with the regional TYA Lead Nurses, to meet regularly and offer support and education to funded, adopted and non-funded nurses, thus bringing all nurses up to date which enables them to deliver gold standard TYA care. We will continue to develop the Nurses Professional Forum where our nurses learn from each other and Teenage Cancer Trust will provide a shared learning experience and group supervision.

We will maintain our professional development and support programme; aligned to the national competence and career framework for nursing⁽⁷⁾. We will look to continually improve and develop our provision of training, leadership scholarships, coaching, mentoring and bespoke workshops which provide opportunities for continued professional development for our nursing workforce.

We will develop our work with academic partners to deliver formal education programmes, regional education days and web based/online learning. This will increase TYA cancer knowledge to non-specialist staff who wish to enhance their current skills and knowledge and potentially prepare them for specialist TYA nursing roles in the future.

Why is this important?

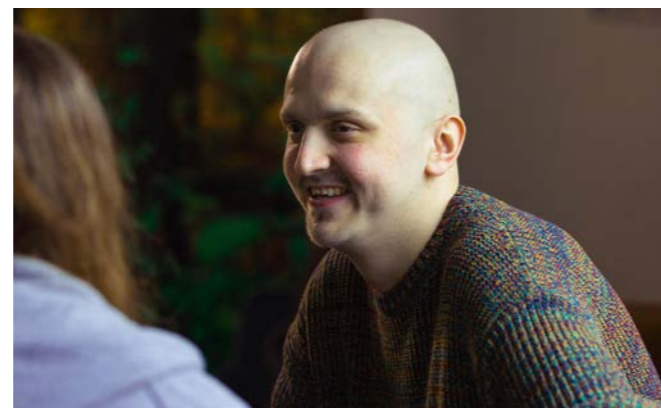
It is now over 25 years since the opening of the first Teenage Cancer Trust unit in London. The charity has been a catalyst in providing age appropriate cancer services and has invested time and significant financial contribution into developing the speciality, with a focus on nursing since 2008. It is crucial we protect and sustain our investment into nursing and provide a skilled and appropriately trained workforce.

The charitable sector has an important role to play to embed high quality nursing care to young people with cancer. Enabling general nurses with an interest in TYA cancer care to develop their knowledge and skills is one way in which we can create the nursing workforce to fill current and future gaps. This will require a sustained effort to enhance and develop the knowledge and skills of nurses across all settings working with this vulnerable patient group.

3. ENCOURAGE A RESPONSIVE AND INQUIRING NURSING WORKFORCE

We will build on the evidence base for the model of care, patient experience and TYA nursing. We will work in partnership with the TYA nursing workforce to develop tangible and measurable nursing outcomes to demonstrate how nurses and nursing make a difference in providing high quality individualised care. We will collect both qualitative and quantitative data through the implementation of a new and revised annual reporting system for funded TYA Nurse Consultants, Lead Nurses and Clinical Nurse Specialists. We will provide evidence that we are increasing our reach to more young people with cancer through the implementation of a monthly data reporting system.

We will continue to work in partnership with others, including nurse academics to ensure our funded nursing workforce development is aligned to research based patient priorities (e.g. BRIGHTLIGHT, James Lind Alliance, NCRI Health Services Research Group). We will also encourage nurses working in TYA cancer to have inquiring minds and to initiate and take part in research, sharing their results with the wider community and embedding into practice.



Why is this important?

We need to demonstrate the difference nursing makes to young people and their families. We need to show our supporters that their financial contributions make a huge difference to the care and the lives of teenagers and young adults with cancer during and after treatment. We need to show that implementation of the nursing strategy has a direct impact on our ability to reach more young people with cancer, and has a positive impact on patient and family care.

THE FUTURE WE ARE DETERMINED TO CREATE

Teenage Cancer Trust has an acute understanding of the vital role nurses play in delivering the best care and outcomes for young people diagnosed with cancer, and an important role in developing and supporting the TYA specialist nursing workforce. We are inspired by the on-going commitment and drive of nurses who play a pivotal role in teenage and young adult cancer care. As an organisation, we know we can achieve more by investing, as described, in the nursing workforce.

This strategy explains how we intend to achieve it. Together, we can create a future in which:

- Every young person with cancer is fully supported by a nurse specialist from diagnosis, throughout treatment, after treatment and end of life
- These nurses are skilled and competent to provide the very best quality of holistic care
- The TYA nursing speciality develops, grows, shares and is sustained
- The work and knowledge of the nursing workforce will be disseminated to others working in this field across the globe



We can only achieve these goals in partnership with other organisations, working alongside those individuals who share our certainty that young people should receive expert nursing care and support. It is therefore vital that we work in partnership with the NHS and, in doing so, together deliver our nursing strategy successfully.

If you would like to get involved or know more, please contact:

Sam Smith, Head of Nursing and Clinical Services, Teenage Cancer Trust - sam.smith@teenagecancertrust.org

Sue Morgan, Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse Consultant - suemorgan@nhs.net




Louise Soanes, Teenage Cancer Trust Nurse Consultant - lsoanes@nhs.net

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