



North East London
Cancer Alliance

Shaping the future of cancer services in north east London

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Introduction to the cancer alliance



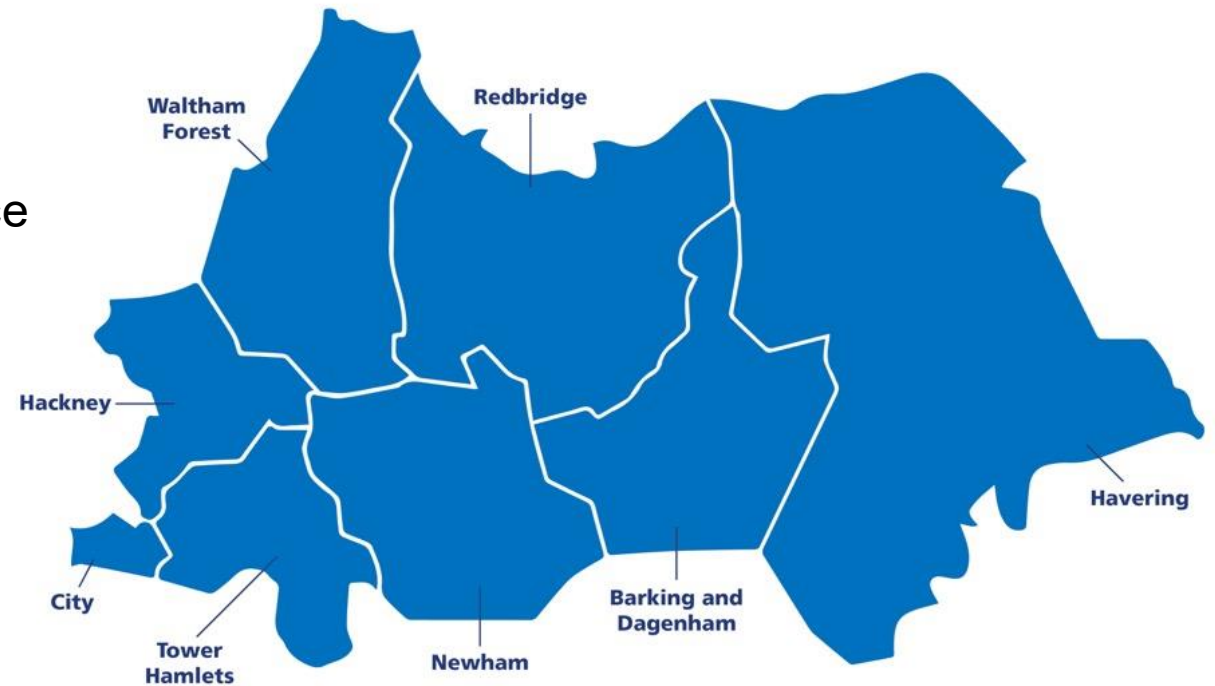
North East London
Cancer Alliance

The North East London ICB continues to support the North East London Cancer Alliance, which works with acute providers, GPs, local authorities, public health, voluntary and community organisations, and the local population to improve local cancer services and reduce health inequalities.

The aim is that everyone has equal access to better cancer services to help:

- prevent cancer
- spot cancer sooner
- provide the right treatment at the right time
- support people and families affected by cancer.

We work with patients, residents, carers, hospitals, GP practices, health and care professionals, local authorities and community and voluntary organisations across north east London.



The National Cancer Plan

- The NHS National Cancer Plan was launched on 4 February, which was also World Cancer Day
- It is a bold, ambitious plan, yet it is also realistic and achievable
- Cancer Alliances are heavily mentioned in the plan as the vehicles for transformation in cancer care
- The cancer plan aligns with the NHS 10-Year Plan
- Our plans for 2026 – 2027 are already taking shape and will reflect the aims of the national cancer plan
- As a cancer alliance, we have already made significant progress over the past five years, and the potential for what we can deliver over the next ten years is genuinely inspiring



10 Year Health Plan's 3 shifts

The three big shifts will transform how we deliver cancer services:

- **Analogue to digital:** harnessing new technology to improve access, efficiency and outcomes
- **Sickness to prevention:** accelerating work on primary prevention and early diagnosis
- **Hospital to community:** improving support to people before, during and after treatment, and for people living with and beyond cancer



The plan is structured around 6 key themes

Driving up NHS cancer performance

Becoming a global leader in cancer outcomes by 2035

Designing cancer care around people's lives

Delivering world class cancer care through world class research

Tackling cancer in children and young people

Prioritising rare and less common cancers

Delivering across these priorities will make England a global leader in cancer care over the next 10 years

The NHS has 3 key ambitions



We will meet the Cancer Waiting Time standards by the end of this Parliament



By 2035, three in four people diagnosed with cancer will be cancer-free, or living well with cancer after five years



We will improve quality of life for people being diagnosed with, treated or living with cancer

Cancer stats in north east London



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In the financial year 2025 to 2026, there were

9,624 individuals

(as of February 2026) **diagnosed with cancer**, compared to the full year number of **11,401 individuals in 2024/25**, **11,144 in 2023/24** and **10,996 in 2022/23**.

The number of **people living with cancer** in 2025/26 (as of February 2026) was

56,746

compared to **52,979 in 2024/25** and **51,588 in 2023/24**.

The number of **people referred for a cancer diagnosis** in 2025/26 was

84,419

(covering Apr 25 to Feb 26 **Faster Diagnosis Standard**) compared to **88,040 in 2024/25**.

Of these,

81,450

(covering Apr 25 to Feb 26 **Faster Diagnosis Standard**), or **96.5%**, were given the all clear, compared to **84,898 (96.4%) in 2024/25**.

Cancer stats in north east London



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Top killers in NEL by Cancer type are

Lung 19%
Upper Gi 19%
Colorectal 13%
Urology 11%

Latest [Cancer Survival in England](#) published by NHSE shows that the top cancers in north east London with low ranges in [1-year survival](#) are Melanoma at 97.3% (Eng 98.2%) and Breast at 96.1% (Eng 97.2%).

Impact of deprivation

- Between April and November 2025, 21% of cancers with a recorded stage were among people living in the most deprived areas, known as Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile 1. A further 29% were among people living in IMD quintile 2, the second most deprived group. This means that half of all staged cancers during this period were recorded in people living in the two most deprived deprivation groups.
- This finding suggests that a large proportion of cancers with known stage are being diagnosed among people living in more deprived communities. This is important because deprivation is often linked to wider health inequalities, including differences in access to services, earlier diagnosis, treatment outcomes and overall cancer experience.

Top cancer types in north east London by diagnosis

Tumoursites	2025/26	%
Skin	1,721	17.88%
Breast	1,260	13.09%
Prostate	1,220	12.68%
Lung	976	10.14%
Lower GI	845	8.78%
Urological	678	7.04%
Gynaecological	564	5.86%
Lymphoma	343	3.56%
Other	309	3.21%
Oesophagogastric	239	2.48%
HPB and Gall Bladder	236	2.45%
Head and Neck	228	2.37%
Pancreatic	226	2.35%
Myeloma	188	1.95%
Brain and CNS	146	1.52%
Leukaemia	140	1.45%
Endocrine	99	1.03%
Unknown Primary	69	0.72%
CLL	64	0.67%
Bone and Soft Tissue	37	0.38%
Cardiothoracic	36	0.37%
Grand Total	9,624	

Tumoursites	2024/25	%
Skin	1,995	17.50%
Breast	1,542	13.53%
Prostate	1,392	12.21%
Lung	1,168	10.24%
Lower GI	1,010	8.86%
Urological	716	6.28%
Gynaecological	707	6.20%
Lymphoma	378	3.32%
Other	347	3.04%
Head and Neck	340	2.98%
Oesophagogastric	297	2.61%
HPB and Gall Bladder	288	2.53%
Brain and CNS	253	2.22%
Pancreatic	230	2.02%
Myeloma	193	1.69%
Leukaemia	180	1.58%
Endocrine	134	1.18%
Unknown Primary	105	0.92%
CLL	68	0.60%
Cardiothoracic	40	0.35%
Bone and Soft Tissue	18	0.16%
Grand Total	1,1401	

Tumoursites	2023/24	%
Skin	1,974	17.71%
Breast	1,712	15.36%
Prostate	1,623	14.56%
Lung	1,049	9.41%
Lower GI	981	8.80%
Urological	590	5.29%
Gynaecological	572	5.13%
Other	407	3.65%
Head and Neck	339	3.04%
Brain and CNS	316	2.84%
Lymphoma	303	2.72%
Oesophagogastric	273	2.45%
HPB and Gall Bladder	243	2.18%
Pancreatic	204	1.83%
Myeloma	152	1.36%
Endocrine	123	1.10%
Leukaemia	101	0.91%
Unknown Primary	64	0.57%
CLL	63	0.57%
Cardiothoracic	29	0.26%
Bone and Soft Tissue	26	0.23%
Grand Total	11,144	

Performance against the national standards

As of November 2025, the Alliance was ranked:

1st
nationally for
Faster Diagnosis Standard

5th
nationally for 62-day performance
(Was 1st in Sept and Oct 2025)

These rankings reinforce a pattern of sustained improvement throughout the year:

- In the first quarter, the Alliance was ranked number one nationally for the 62-day combined standard, achieving 75.5%, demonstrating strong pathway management from referral through to treatment.
- In August 2025, the Alliance was 1st nationally by Cancer Alliance, and 2nd by national ICB for the Faster Diagnosis Standard. The Alliance was 2nd both nationally and by Cancer Alliance for the 62-day standard.
- Across the second quarter, the system continued to lead regionally, becoming the best-performing Integrated Care Board in London across all three national cancer targets, including the 28-day Faster Diagnosis Standard.
- In quarter three, performance against the Faster Diagnosis Standard reached 82.2%, again ranking first across London.

Early Diagnosis Achievements



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You Need to Know
(womb and ovarian)
and CoppaFeel!
(breast) campaigns
shortlisted for multiple
awards

Recruited and trained
13 Health Champions
from across Gypsy,
Roma and Traveller
communities –
Regional Champion in
NHS Excellence
Awards

35,000 lung checks,
20,000 CT scans, 187
cancers diagnosed,
75% at stage 1 or 2
thanks to Lung Cancer
Screening

4,229 interactions with
It's Not A Game
prostate cancer
campaign achieved
and 715 surveys
completed

Spoke to over 500
students as part of the
HPV awareness
campaign to
encourage uptake of
the vaccine

HPV self-sampling
referenced in the
national plan as a
best practice case
study

LDN Get Sun Set sun
safety campaign was
successfully launched
in Victoria Park,
raising awareness of
skin cancer

The prostate cancer
van visited 10
locations seeing over
1500 residents and
highlighting risk
factors in prostate
cancer

Diagnosis and Treatment Achievements



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Using AI in chest X-rays has reduced time to review significant findings from three weeks to just three days

A pilot using Signatera™ to inform follow-on treatment decisions of early stage urothelial and gastro-intestinal cancer patients

Launch of a virtual hospital tour of St Bartholomew's Hospital to help cancer patient prepare for their appointment

Development of Patient Engage – a 24/7 chat bot – to help reduce the number of missed colonoscopy appointments

Publication of an MDT article on leadership styles in the *BMJ*, reflecting the recognition of the Alliance work at a national level

Completion of a series of clinical animations designed to explain complex procedures for patients in different languages

Improving MRI scan quality and consistency across providers to reduce repeat imaging and delays

A pilot which supports faster assessment and triage of suspected skin cancer referrals using digital imaging

Personalised Cancer Care and Workforce Achievements

Continuing prehabilitation services to help prepare cancer patients for treatment and reduce length of hospital stays

Delivering level 2 Psychological support training across north east London with positive feedback

Successfully launched a short film that addresses some of the cultural attitudes, myths and stigmas attached to cancer

Initiative to improve uptake of physical exercise reached over 200 residents and patients, bringing together local health partners

The Alliance has seen a 63% increase in EoT Holistic Needs Assessments since the beginning of the financial year

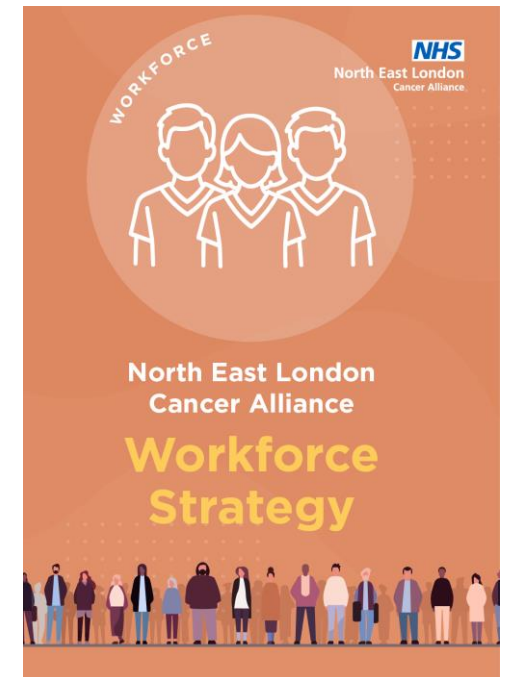
Established an Unpaid Carers Network with events taking place across Trusts to provide support

27 CNSs receiving enhanced support from the CNS Development Lead and launched pilot ACCEND e-portfolio for 25 professionals

Launched a series of cancer education sessions for healthcare professionals working in cancer

Why these three strategies?

- The launch of our three strategies today is an integral part of achieving the national cancer plan
- All three strategies support our cancer alliance delivery plan for 2026 to 2027
- They will all play a part in shaping the future of cancer services in north east London, improving outcomes for patients





North East London
Cancer Alliance

Web: www.nelcanceralliance.nhs.uk

Facebook: @NelCancerAlliance

Instagram: @CancerNEL

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-east-london-cancer-alliance/>

Reddit: <https://www.reddit.com/user/CancerNEL/>

TikTok: @nelcanceralliance

WhatsApp: <https://bit.ly/4oSF8Ku>

X: @CancerNel

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@nelcanceralliance>