



Northern Burn Care Network

NORTHERN BURN CARE NETWORK

**Annual Report
2021-22**

Audience

This document is intended as an information resource for Chief Executives, Medical Directors, senior managers and clinicians in the following NHS organisations within the Northern Burn Care Network (NBCN) area:

- NHS England (NHSE) Specialised Commissioning (NW) (host of the NBCN)
- NHS England (NHSE) Specialised Commissioning (NE and YAH)
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Acute Trusts providing specialised burn care
- Specialised Burn Services within the NBCN
- Major Trauma Operational Delivery Networks (Adult and Paediatric)
- Critical Care Operational Delivery Networks (Adult and Paediatric)
- Ambulance Services in the North of England and North Wales
- Helicopter Emergency Services (HEMS) in the North of England and North Wales
- North of England Integrated Care Systems:
 - Cheshire and Merseyside
 - Greater Manchester
 - Humber, Coast and Vale
 - Lancashire and South Cumbria
 - North East and North Cumbria
 - South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw
 - West Yorkshire

Additionally, the document is intended for:

- Other Specialised Burn Care Operational Delivery Networks in England
- Specialised Burn Care in Scotland (COBIS)
- NHSE Major Trauma and Burns Clinical Reference Group

This document will also provide an information resource for the following non-NHS organisations:

- The British Burn Association (BBA)
- Changing Faces
- Dan's Fund for Burns
- The Katie Piper Foundation
- Child Accident Prevention Trust
- The Scar Free Foundation

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The Northern Burn Care Network (NBCN)

The NBCN is one of four operational delivery networks (ODNs) for specialised burn care in England and Wales. During 2021 we had over 7,700 new referrals, of which around 150 cases were for a burn injury larger than 10% of the body surface area. Of these, around 20 cases involved large burn injuries, requiring intensive care in one of our burn centres.

Vision and purpose

The aim of the NBCN is to optimise the provision of care for burn injured patients as defined in the manual for prescribed services and the Service Specification for Specialised Burn Care by ensuring that all patients that require specialist burn care have access to the right level of burn care at the right time and in the right service.

Geography

The NBCN covers a large geographical area and a population of around 17m people. Our network serves the populations of North West England, North East England, North Wales and the Isle of Man.

Background

The network is now hosted by NHS England North West Specialised Commissioning and a network manager came into post in July 2021. The network infrastructure for the NBCN was re-established in 2021-22, following a period of time where the network did not have a host organisation and there was no network manager in post.

Challenges

As with many specialised services, burn care for people with complex injuries is a high cost and low volume service. Improving access to high quality care is a priority for the ODN.

The key objectives for the NBCN are to:

- Ensure effective and resilient clinical flows through the provider system through clinical collaboration for networked provision of services
- Take a whole system collaborative provision approach to ensuring the delivery of safe and effective services across the patient pathway, adding value for all its stakeholders
- Improve cross-organisational multi-professional clinical engagement to improve pathways of care

There are ten hospitals for specialised burns in the network:



NBCN Clinical Lead's Introduction

It is with pleasure that I introduce to you our 2021-22 Annual Report for the Northern Burn Care Network. During this year we have welcomed the re-establishment of the network infrastructure and governance arrangements. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the efforts of all staff working in burn care services across the network and thank them for their hard work.

Professor Kayvan Shokrollahi
BSc MB ChB MSc LLM MRCS(Eng) FRCS(Plast)
Consultant Burns, Plastic & Laser Surgeon
Clinical Lead: Mersey Regional Burns Service, Whiston Hospital

Kayvan steps down as Network Clinical Lead, a post he has held since January 2017, at the end of June 2022. The network extends their thanks to him for all his hard work over the last five years.

NBCN Host and Lead Commissioner

The lead commissioner and host of the NBCN is NHS England North West Specialised Commissioning, responsible for the effective functioning of the network and employment of the network team.

NHS England has recognised that clinical networks are an NHS success story, responsible for some significant sustained improvements in the quality of patient care and outcomes. Supporting specialist services through Operational Delivery Networks is vitally important for ensuring that high quality services are available for patients when they need them most. The Northern Burn Care Network is commissioned to optimise the provision of care for burn injured patients. This annual report highlights the work undertaken 2021-22 to re-establish the network infrastructure, implementing governance arrangements and developing the work programme. NHS England North West Specialised Commissioning is proud to host the Northern Burn Care Network and I would like to thank everyone involved in burns care for their passion and expertise.

Andrew Bibby
Regional Director of Health & Justice and Specialised Commissioning
NHS England – North West

The NBCN Team

A small, dedicated network team supports the NBCN. In addition to the Network Clinical Lead, there is a full-time network manager and business support shared with other networks hosted by NHS England NW Specialised Commissioning.

Kayvan Shokrollahi – Clinical Lead

Kayvan joined the network as Clinical Lead in January 2017. He is a Consultant Burns, Plastics and Laser Surgeon and the Clinical Lead at the Mersey Burns Service (Whiston Hospital). In addition to these roles he is also a Trustee and Deputy Chair of the British Burn Association and edits the Journal Scars, Burns & Healing. He leaves to take on additional responsibilities at the University.



Rachel Pearson – Network Manager

I have worked in the NHS since 2006, in a range of operational, programme management and service improvement roles and have experience of facilitating teams across both organisational and professional boundaries to deliver improvements in patient care. My immediate priority when I came into post on 1 July 2021 was get the network back up and running, ensuring appropriate governance arrangements and infrastructure for the network to operate effectively, and making connections across the wider system.

Janet Taylor – Network Business Support

Janet has worked in the NHS since April 2019, working with NHS Blood and Transplant as an administrator in Donor Family Care and in her current role with NHS England as business support for the North West Kidney Network and Northern Burn Care Network. Prior to this, Janet worked for most of her career with Merseyside Police in various administrative and managerial roles before moving overseas. Janet returned to the UK in 2019.



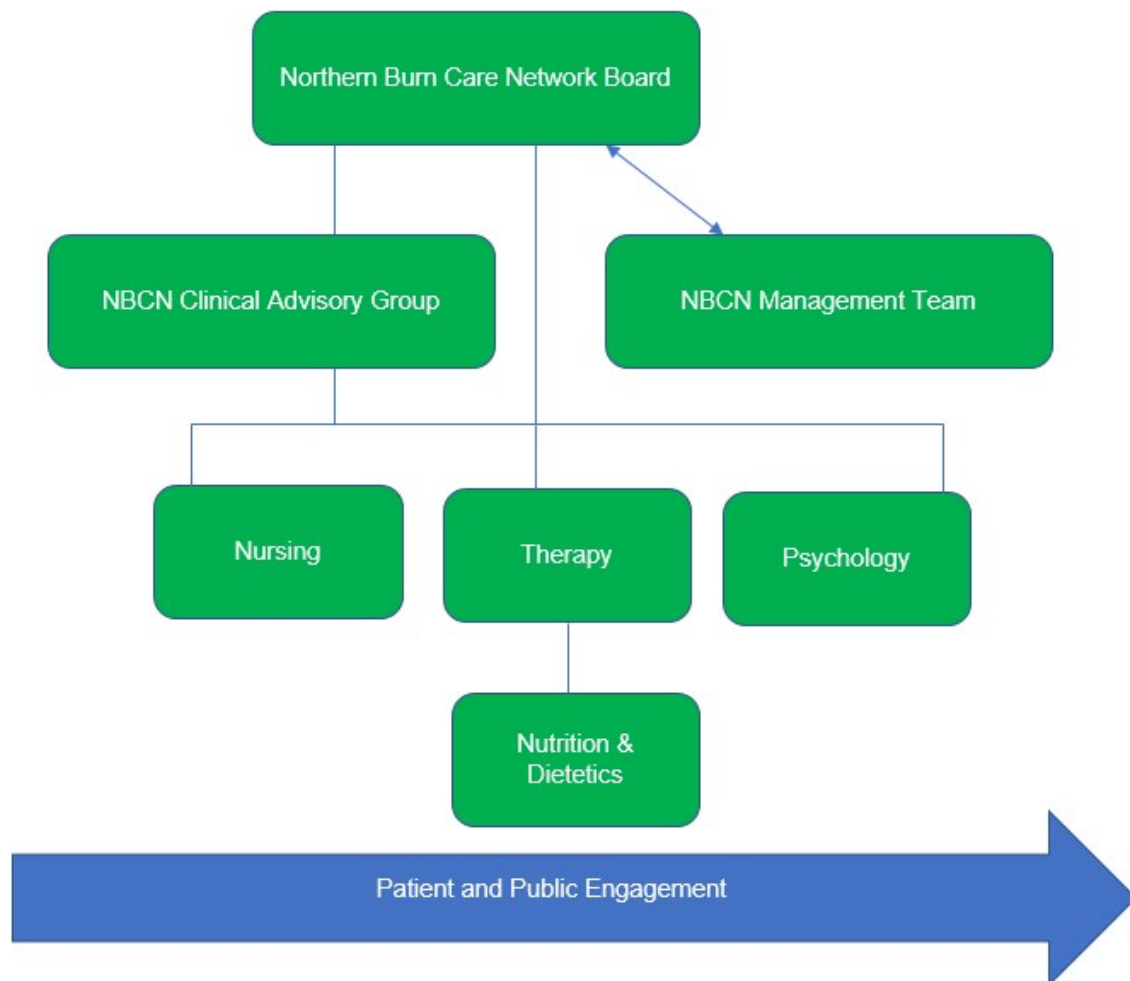
The team has been expanded for 2022-23 to include network professional leads for nursing, therapy and psychosocial care (see page 12).

Network Work Programme and Priorities 2021-22

The NBCN Board agrees a work programme each year, including issues related to clinical and organisational governance, and service and quality improvements. The focus of the work programme for 2021-22 was on re-establishing the network infrastructure and governance arrangements.

Governance

The NBCN has established the following governance framework:



All the above groups have agreed terms of reference and are meeting regularly to progress the network work programme. The network manager developed role descriptions and led the recruitment process for the network management team:

- Clinical Lead
- Lead Nurse
- Lead Allied Health Professional
- Lead Psychologist

A network website has been developed (www.northern-burncare-network.nhs.uk)

Audit

It is the responsibility of all Burns ODNs to conduct regular mortality and morbidity audits. Our annual network mortality meeting took place on 9 March 2022 and was chaired by Professor Shokrollahi. This meeting reviewed all mortalities in burns services within the NBCN for the calendar year 2021 and there was good representation from across the network. Common themes emerging from the cases discussed included:

- fire caused by cigarette igniting clothing/furniture
- challenges of treating hypothermic patients - emphasising the importance appropriate of pre-hospital care and timely transfer to a specialist burns service
- tendency for a small percentage body surface area burn to be very serious in elderly co-morbid patients

Eight cases were agreed to be presented at the national annual mortality meeting (held on 25 April 2022).

Capacity planning and system resilience

The network manager has established relationships with the seven adult and three paediatric critical care networks in the geographical footprint of the NBCN. This has enabled NBCN to establish processes as part of critical care surge and escalation at Trust and Network level. We have worked with paediatric critical care networks to:

- support capacity planning and mutual aid in paediatric critical care
- establish processes with paediatric transport services to ensure paediatric burns patients requiring intensive care can be treated within the network.

National Work

The NBCN is one of four specialised burn care Operational Delivery Networks covering all of England and Wales, and collaborative working is an essential part of our work. The National Burns Operation Delivery Network Group (NBODNG) brings together the four network clinical leads, network managers and NHS England to support and coordinate nationally significant issues. The NBODNG allows clinicians and managers to share information, knowledge, challenges and successes to ensure effective Operational Delivery Network form and function, including the development of standardised provider guidance and improved service standards, ensuring a consistent patient and family experience. The NBODNG plays an important role in a national work programme, in key areas that require a nationally consistent approach across all burns networks, including:

- Clinical governance and audit
- Quality assurance
- Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR)
- Information and intelligence

Exercise COMET was held on 27 May 2021 to explore and orientate participating staff to the NHS England Concept of Operations (ConOps) for the Management of Mass Casualties (Burns Annex). Jacky Edwards (Manchester) worked with the managers of the other burns networks nationally to develop and lead the exercise. The main objectives were to explore the efficacy of the published Burns Annex and how the plan facilitates the assessment and prioritisation of transfer of burn injured patients from receiving hospitals to the most appropriate level of specialised burn care. All the Burn Centres and Units in England and Wales participated.

NBCN members supported the work of the NHS England Major Trauma and Burns Clinical Reference Group (CRG) to develop a new Paediatric Specialised Burn Care Specification.

Dr Emma Hodgkinson (Newcastle) led national work to develop and pilot Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMS) for burns. Burns services within the network involved in the pilot. This work will continue in 2022-23.

Jacky Edwards (Manchester) led national work to develop the burns Rehabilitation Prescription.

In November 2021, Preetha Muthayya and Brendan Sloan shared the Pinderfields experience at a national education session on the Enzymatic Debridement of Large Burns.

Financial Statement

The annual budget for the network is £166,000.

This was spent as follows in 2021-22:

Cost	Amount
Network Manager (part year from 1.7.21)	£51, 937.50
Business Support (part year from 1.11.21)	£2,895.42
Website development and 3 years hosting	£1,946.80
Total spend	£56, 779.72

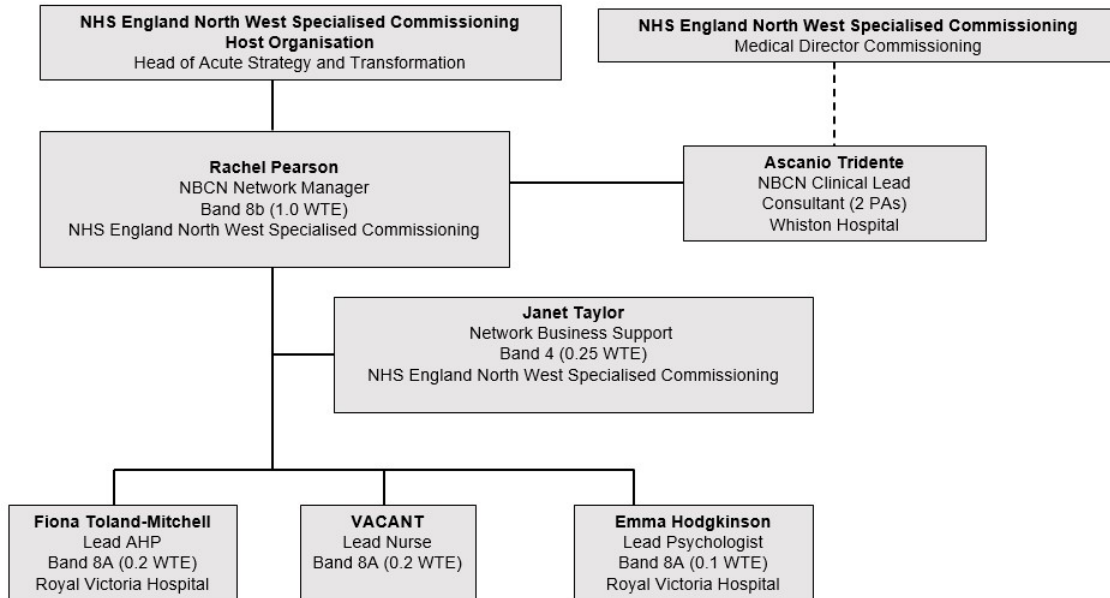
The network budget was therefore underspent by **£109,220.28**. Commissioners approved the use of this underspend to fund improvement projects across the network during 2022-23. Burns services in the network have been invited to apply for funding of up to £10,000 per bid for projects that:

- Demonstrate clinical alignment to burns pathway (prevention, pre-hospital, acute care, rehabilitation, psychological support, outreach)
- Address an identified quality gap in the service
- Reflect national and/or network priorities

All network funded projects will be evaluated, and learning shared across the network.

Forward into 2022-23

A network management team was appointed to at the end of 2021-22, coming into post during April-May 2022-23:



Dr Ascanio Tridente - Network Clinical Lead from April 2022



Ascanio is a physician and intensive care consultant, Clinical Director of Research, Development and Innovation, and former Clinical Director of Critical Care at St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust. He is a Trustee of the British Burns Association and national co-lead for Careers in Intensive Care for the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine. He is a visiting Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University (department of Health Sciences). His interests include medical research and innovation, leadership education and professionalism.

Fiona Toland-Mitchell - Network Lead AHP from May 2022

Fiona is an Occupational Therapist at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle Upon Tyne having worked there within Burns for over 24 years. For the past 18 years Fiona has worked as part of the Burns Outreach team with Adults and Paediatrics across the Northeast and Cumbria.



Dr Emma Hodgkinson - Network Lead Psychologist from April 2022

Emma currently works as a Clinical Psychologist supporting patients across the lifespan in adult and paediatric services in Newcastle upon Tyne. Alongside direct patient care Emma provides support, teaching and training to the multidisciplinary team, and co-supervises trainee clinical psychologists on specialist placements in the burns service. Emma is an active member of the research team and participates in regional and nationwide service development activities.

We plan to appoint to the Network Lead Nurse role during 2022-23.

The expanded network team will work to deliver the following priorities during 2022-23:

Governance and Audit

- Establish forum for sharing learning across the network from a wider case mix – morbidity, mortality and unexpected survival
- Review of all mortalities in the network and identification of cases to present to the national mortality meeting

Education and Training

- Network MDT Education Day
- Network-wide review of methods of teaching and staff support during covid-19 pandemic to facilitate shared learning

Quality

- Evaluation of applications for network funding to support delivery of improvement projects within burns services, oversight of project delivery and facilitation of shared learning from the projects across the whole network.
- Monitoring of service quality through quarterly reporting of national and locally agreed indicators

- Review/update/develop network guidelines and protocols as per national burn care standards

Psychological Care

- Review the current use of technology in burns services and develop network recommendations
- Review Trauma Informed Care practices in burns services and develop network recommendations
- Review current practices for the use of general anaesthetic dressing changes for psychological reasons in burns services and develop network guidelines
- Review existing materials relating to transition across the network and update as required

Burn Care Therapy

- Review and update patient exercise leaflets
- Review and update network therapy competencies

National work

- NBCN representation (surgeon, intensivist, nurse, AHP and psychologist) on task and finish group to review and amend the existing all age Specialised Burn Care Specification, ensuring that the adult specification reflects the new paediatric specification.
- Continue work to develop PREMs and other ways of gathering patient experience feedback
- Participate in national prospective audit for travel / transfer times and the impact on patient outcomes
- Contribute to national mortality meeting
- Contribute to British Burns Association review of Burn Care Standards
- Contribute to review of national burn care therapy standards

Annex 1

NBCN Service Activity 2021

Total number of all new first referrals to the burns services. Categorized by burns severity (TBSA – Total Body Surface Area).

Note: This overview is intended to indicate the total number of new patients treated by each burn service, and includes all adult and paediatric activities, for both inpatient and outpatient care. Activity data shown below was provided for the Network Annual Regional Burns Mortality meeting, March 2022, and is for the calendar year 2021.

ADULTS	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%		635	637	941	386	129	189	762
	≥10- <40%		25	15	18	0	4	3	15
	≥40%		4	4	4	0	1	0	1
	Total Adult Referrals		662	689¹	963	386	134	192	778

CHILDREN	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%	597	1261	591	762	126	464	106	
	≥10- <30%	9	9	5	5		3	0	
	≥30%	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Total Paediatric Referrals	606	1277	611²	767	126	467	106	

Total referrals	606	1939	1300	1730	512	601	298	778
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Non-burns SJS-TENS	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	2
Other non-burns skin loss*	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	2

*Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome (SSSS) etc.

¹ Includes 33 patients with unknown % TBSA

² Includes 15 patients with unknown % TBSA

Annex 2

Annual Service Reports from our Burn Care Services

Alder Hey Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool (Burn Centre)
Clinical Lead: Sian Falder, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Alder Hey in the Park is one of the largest children's hospitals in Europe. It covers a catchment population of 7.6 million. There are 20 specialist services on site. Our Regional Burn Service, part of the Northern Burn Care Network, delivers all levels of care including Centre-level. Our catchment area includes Liverpool, Warrington, Leighton, the Isle of Man and North Wales as far south as Aberystwyth. We take referrals from many sources, admitting approximately 350 children and young people and treating around 250 as outpatients. The multidisciplinary service deals with all burn-related care from minor scalds up to major burns and rehabilitation, including scar management and reconstruction. We also manage children who have extensive skin loss from other causes. We have five high dependency cubicles.

Our service plays an active role in supporting the Northern Network's aims of collaborative working and education and training for local, non-specialist providers, such as emergency departments and walk-in centres. There are three out-patient burn dressing clinics per week with access to specialist nursing, medical and therapy staff. We hold monthly Burn Review clinics, weekly scar and pressure garments clinics and monthly complex scar multidisciplinary clinics. We offer a range of scar treatments, including non-surgical options such as cosmetic camouflage, laser treatment, pressure garments, prosthetics and reconstructive surgery.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Maintaining service during second year of Covid-19 pandemic
- Louise Campbell, Burn Nurse Specialist, was recognized by Lord Lieutenant of Chester (Her Majesty's representative) for outstanding contribution during the Covid Pandemic
- Organized and ran a successful EMSB course
- Full-time play specialists appointed
- Replaced LDI scanner and arranged training for staff
- Implemented the MDSAS system for burn referrals
- Contributed to education nationally and regionally (including to local providers, BBA Educational Day, March 2022).
- One family attended the network Family Weekend which have returned to face to face
- Psychology service provided bite-sized recordings of wellbeing strategies for burns MDT staff

- Alder Hey Trust Quality Assurance Rounds Gold Accreditation awarded May 2021
- One Burns Nurse successfully completed the Burns Course, one to commence September 2022
- Two Nurses successfully passed EMSB, one Nurse recognised as outstanding and asked to return as a Coordinator

Challenges during 2021-22

- Maintaining service during staffing shortage due to Covid; our service stayed open and we were able to accommodate out of catchment patients
- Challenges to recruit new consultant in burns at Alder Hey (as post is not combined with adult work); means service has insufficient burn consultants to meet standards
- Retirement of burn research nurse
- Changes in theatre personnel on burns lists
- Challenges with staffing in laser service meaning long waits for patient treatments

Patient experience and feedback

- We have finalised and printed new patient information leaflets
- Grant received to develop a teenage therapy room
- Received positive patient feedback. Some examples below:
 - “Staff were really reassuring and aware of my daughters additional needs and ensured that she was settled and well looked after, took the time to listen to us and showed respect at all times”
 - “All information was relayed to me and I was fully updated with my child's care on a regular basis by Nurses and Doctors, they were always happy to listen and answer our lots of questions throughout our Daughter's stay”
 - “All of the Nurses were great and went above and beyond with my little boy”

Research and Audit

Research Activity

- Members of BBA Research SIG
- Engaged in research, including James Lind Alliance priority setting in burn research

Textbook

Rea S, Falder S. (2021) The burnt child. In Kay S, McCombe D, Wilks, D. (editors) Oxford Textbook of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Oxford University Press.

Publications

- Young A, Davies A, Tsang, C, Kirkham J, Potokar T, Gibran N, Tyack Z, Meirte J, Harada T, Dheansa B, Dumville J, Metcalfe C, Ahuja R, Wood F, Gaskell S, Brookes S, Smailes S, Jeschke M, Cinar MA, Zia N, Moghazy A, Mathers J, Falder S, Blazeby JM. Establishment of a core outcome set for

burn care research: development and international consensus. *BMJ Medicine*. 2022 Jul 1;1(1).

- Gill A, McIntosh G, Walker D, Baldwin H, Falder S. Reducing interruptions during administration of medicines to children. *Archives of Diseases in Childhood*. 2022 (107):e25[abstract]
- Potokar T, Bendell R, Phuyal K, Dhital A, Karim E, Falder S, Kynge L, Price PE. The development of the Delivery Assessment Tool (DAT) to facilitate quality improvement in burns services in low-middle income countries. *Burns*. 2021 Oct 28:S0305-4179(21)00297-7. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2021.10.010. Online ahead of print
- Hampton T, Hampton V, Dheansa B, Falder S, Emery P. Does a high protein intake improve clinical outcome and nutritional status for patients with burns? A systematic review. *Burns*. 2021 Dec;47(8):1714-1729. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2021.02.028. Epub 2021 Mar 5.

Presentations

- Pyrexia in association with scald injuries in the under 5s. Conway L, Wauchope E, Marlow K, Falder S. BBA, Bristol May 2022 [oral].
- Reducing Interruptions during administration of medicines to children. Gill A, McIntosh G, Walker D, Baldwin H, Falder S. 27th Neonatal and paediatric pharmacists conference (online) Nov 2021 [oral].
- The DAT (Delivery Assessment Tool) is an effective tool for quality improvement in burn services in Low & Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Falder S, Kynge L, Bendell R, Phuyal K, Dhital A, Karim E, Price PE, Potokar T. Combined ISBI/BBA (online) Jun 2021 [oral].
- Managing paediatric burns across the NW Regions during the UK's first lockdown. Falder S, Campbell S, Burgess S, Raraty C, Fattah A, Souied A, Aly M, Sheikh Z, Khan H, McNally S, Khwaja N, Shah M. Combined BBA/ISBI, (online) Jun 2021 [poster].

Additional

Contributed to NICE guidance update on use of the Laser Doppler

Forward into 2022-23

- To improve sustainability of service, achieve better compliance with Burn Care Standards and NHSE Specifications for Paediatric Burn Care, we plan to appoint a new burn consultant. There is ongoing discussion with other regional services to continue to improve collaborative working including potential for cross-site working
- Appoint replacement burn research nurse
- Upgrade specialist burn nurse role to 8A
- Establish a soft play event for children under 5 and their parents.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)

Clinical Lead: Mr Chidi Ekwobi BSc(Hons) MBBS MSc FRCS(Plast)Glasg

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a burn facility on the Royal Preston Hospital site that caters for clients across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Outlying hospitals include Barrow, Kendal, Lancaster, Blackburn, Burnley, and Blackpool.

We have a mixed ward of 22 beds for burns and plastic surgery. The facility has theatre for burns and plastic surgery clients and we have dedicated burns management clinics as well as burns MDT clinics for burns clients. Paediatric burns are cared for on the paediatric ward on which the paediatric HDU and outpatient dressings clinic are located. We have a combined physiotherapy scar management service and have access to a cosmetic camouflage service. We also have a Trust clinical psychology service that we can access for our burns clients.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Maintaining service during second year of covid-19 pandemic
- Burns specialist nurse delivering local education and training for new staff
- Psychological support for burn care MDT members
- All senior staff teams trained in the use emergency rinsing solution for chemical burns
- Major incident plan in place

Patient experience and feedback

Burns specialist nurse involved in PREMS national working group and this continues. Some very positive feedback about the service. Areas noted for improvement include pain management on the ward and time to theatre.

Research and Audit

- Research covid-19 study involvement 2020 – awaiting publication
- Audit ongoing time to surgery from injury date to theatre date.
- Ongoing time to heal audit – monthly.

Forward into 2022-23

The following actions have been identified to ensure compliance with the burn care standards:

- **PATIENT SUPPORT AND INFORMATION:**
 - Develop MDT COMPREHENSIVE CARE PLAN for inpatients and outpatients.
 - Update SCAR MANAGEMENT LEAFLET to ensure it includes information about pain and itch.
 - Explore options to establish BURNS CAMP CLUB through charity funding (patients currently access the Manchester burns camp).
 - Establish patient SUPPORT GROUP
 - Continue involvement in national work to develop PREMS

- POLICIES AND GUIDELINES:
 - MDT to develop guideline for return to work, employment, community reintegration, informed by best practice across the network.
 - Ensure TRANSITION POLICY in place
- EDUCATION AND TRAINING:
 - Ensure ST3 grades have EMSB training and are available 24 hours a day.
 - Ensure all MDT members complete SAFEGUARDING training to Level 3
 - Support MDT members to attend burns rehabilitation and EMSB courses
 - Training for MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN
 - Develop TOXIC SHOCK GUIDELINE informed by best practice across the network
 - Ensure REHABILITATION GUIDELINE in place informed by best practice across the network
 - Training for outlying hospitals in the use of diphtherine for CHEMICAL BURNS
- Identify BURNS LEAD INTENSIVIST
- Consider implementing a tiered approach in PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE for all members of the wider MDT including ward and dressing clinic staff
- Liaise with hospital discharge team to identify named SOCIAL CARE member for MDT
- To commence in June 2022 RESEARCH STUDY silver woven dressing
- Continue ongoing audits (time to theatre, time to heal)
- ACTIVITY CODING/CLINICAL GOVERNANCE – ensure all burn inpatient and outpatient episodes are accurately coded as burn activity

Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Centre)

Clinical Lead: Mr James Bedford MSc FRCS(Plast) BrDipHandSurg

The Manchester Adult Burn Centre is located at Wythenshawe Hospital, part of Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The 12 bedded unit was commissioned in 1999 and incorporates two level 3 beds with full ITU support, 3 HDU beds (including 1 isolation room), 3 further cubicles and a 4 bedded bay. There is an operating theatre, two bathrooms and a therapy room within the unit, which is co-located with the adult intensive care unit.

A nurse-led Burns Outreach Service provides outpatient care for patients with burn injuries including initial assessment and management of smaller burns. The service also supports community teams and nursing teams in other hospitals with outreach visits for advice and assessments.

The Manchester paediatric burns centre is located within Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH) in the Oxford Road Campus of Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust. RMCH is one of the largest children's hospitals in Europe. The 12-bedded Burns Centre has 8 cubicles and a 4-bed bay. The Burns Theatre is attached to the unit which is also co-located with paediatric ICU, paediatric HDU and the main theatre complex. There are 2 inpatient bathrooms and one outpatient bathroom for burn wound dressings.

There is a purpose-built Burns and Plastic Surgery aftercare clinic delivering outpatient follow-up and ambulatory care for smaller burns.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Our biggest achievement has been remaining operational despite the challenges of the pandemic
- We have appointed a new ward manager at RMCH and had successful rounds of recruitment for new Band 5/6 nurses
- We have re-established in patient burn centre admissions
- We have run a residential Children's Burns Camp and a Young Adult Burn Camp Day. Both were enjoyed by all and it was lovely to see people engaging with each other again after the restrictions of the last two years.
- We are again able to send staff on EMSB course
- We have established a satellite skin bank in partnership with Joint Operations ensuring we are HTA compliant This has involved setting up a dedicated, secure skin freezer, SOP, Training the team on procurement processes & handling for allograft. Since the skin bank became operational it has meant rapid access to cadaveric skin for emergency burn excision.
- We have supported 2 of our nursing staff through the Non-Medical Prescribing course and have another who is currently undertaking this
- We also have 2 staff taking the Burns Rehabilitation module of the Burns Masters Course at Manchester Metropolitan University

- We have appointed a new Burn Fellow and Burns Research Fellow The Adult Burns Centre has won a Gold award for ward accreditation within MFT
- Sister Sue Gibbons and our service lead Mr James Bedford were recognised in the Trust jubilee awards
- Mr Zeeshan Sheikh was awarded a silver award from Manchester Medical School for his work with our medical students
- Sam McNally was awarded PLASTA joint Northwest Trainer of the year and runner up in the National trainer of the year in Burns and Plastic Surgery voted for by the trainees.

Challenges during 2021-22

- The biggest challenge at RMCH has been re-establishing the service to its previous level post Covid. The improved numbers of new starters and recruitment to more senior positions has put us in a better position, but we need to ensure that these new nurses have the Burns knowledge required to manage patients. This training will be facilitated by our newly appointed practice educator who has worked quickly to reintroduce our band 5 and band 6 study days in burns.
- We have worked with our Burns Nurse Consultant to gather evidence against Burns Standards to ensure we are working towards compliance for our next peer review
- We have worked hard with the staff from Acute Intensive Care to facilitate keeping our ventilated beds open. We have recruited to staffing gaps within our cohort of intensive care nurses.
- We are working hard to recruit more anaesthetic nursing support for our theatre

Patient experience and feedback

- The patient feedback platform at RMCH has changed, and feedback has been broadly good. We have supported the pilot of Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs)
- Our Friends and Family responses for patient feedback have also been very positive. Examples include:
 - “Caring staff and very informative good facilities and level of treatment”
 - “Everything was explained regarding the wounds the dressings, and this was reassuring. Pain control was very much appreciated. Doctors, Nurses, Physio, psychologist were very supportive in treatment I received”
 - “Very caring and considerate about my situation. Very helpful couldn't ask for better”
 - “The staff were excellent and very attentive”
 - “Both nurses were incredibly kind professional, very reassuring answered all my questions. They explained everything very clearly
 - “Staff are kind and caring and very efficient”
 - “The staff are second to none caring, kind, helpful. All done with a smile. Totally brilliant”
 - “The staff were delightful, friendly, informative, cheerful, caring and jolly”

Research and Audit

- Poster presentation BBA: Review of Paediatric Sunburn Injuries
- MCRCT: Nexobrid trial
- Audit: Hands first (BSSH hand injury audit)
- Presentations at ISBI 2021
 - Increase in Intentionally inflicted burns during the covid pandemic
 - DIY cement burns during lock down
 - Cement Burns microbiology
 - 11-year retrospective study of sunburn injuries presenting to the Manchester Adult Burn Service
 - Spice and Burns: a case series review
 - Managing Burns in the NW during the UKs first lockdown of covid 19 pandemic
- Current research projects:
 - Oasis trial
 - Serum Amyloid in trauma study

Forward into 2022-23

- To work with PICU to improve patient flow
- To work with the management team at RMCH to protect the inpatient beds for Burn injured patients
- To review ourselves against the standards prior to our next peer review
- We hope to recruit to current vacancies for anaesthetic nursing staff.
- We hope to re-establish our band 6 teaching program
- We hope to re-establish residential Burns Camps for young adults
- We hope to re-establish our peer support group face to face
- We hope our new Burn Research Fellow will help reinvigorate our Burn Prevention work

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Burn Centre – Adult; Burn Unit – Paediatric) *Clinical Lead: Miss Preetha Muthayya, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

The Regional Burns Service was established in 1966 at Pinderfields Hospital as the first NHS-funded purpose-built facility in Britain for the treatment of major burns. It serves a population of approximately 5 million people across Yorkshire, Humber and North Lincolnshire and encompasses 16 A&E departments, 7 Walk-In Centres and 11 Minor Injury Units. The Mid Yorkshire Burns Service is located at the Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield.

The Adult Regional Burns Centre has two level 1 beds and five level 3 beds. Burn injuries and skin loss conditions of all levels of complexity are cared for. The Children's Regional Burns Unit is a 5 bedded unit and outpatient department with 1 High Dependency bed.

Highlights of 2021-22

Awards:

- **Medipex NHS Innovation Award** for our innovative use of MDSAS Telemedicine service in the “Preventing and reducing hospital attendance” category awarded to the Pinderfields Burns Service (Presented by Matthew Stone, Registrar)
- **Team of the week Award** for compassionate care awarded to the Adult Burn Service
- Ciara Bowers, Senior Burns Fellow, was awarded **Best Management Project in the Executive Healthcare MBA, the University of Nottingham**, and a distinction overall for her project on **Cost implications of enzymatic debridement in a regional burn centre**

Service expansion:

- Business case in progress, for Burn Consultant, Nursing posts and administrator in Burns. (Approved June 2022)
- Paediatric Plastic Surgery Acute Assessment unit is now co-located on the burns unit.

Education:

- **Fundamental Principles of Urgent Burns Care:** Online interactive course with MDT faculty (surgeon, intensivist, nurse) on acute burn management. Organised and run by the burns team, under the umbrella of Yorkshire Clinical Courses, 01.07.21
- **Accident and emergency department teaching:** Regular teaching sessions by the burn care nurse advisors have now resumed post Covid.
- **Post CCT Training:**
 - **Burn Fellow-** Ciara Bowers was appointed Senior Burns Fellow post Jan- Dec 2022
 - **Overseas Burns and Plastic Surgery Fellow-** Sophia Moore, Plastic Surgery Resident from Kingston, Jamaica.

Burns Camps:

- The Family Burns Club Charity, formed by Tracy Foster, Play Specialist, Pinderfields Paediatric Burn Service and families of burn survivors, has been instrumental in resuming burn camps for patients after Covid. The next camp is planned for May 2022.

Miscellaneous:

- The Pinderfields Burns Service **Website** was launched in June 2021
- Brendan Sloan, Consultant in Intensive care and anaesthesia, Burns ICU lead, was part of the **Cave Rescue team** involved in the Brecon Beacon caving complex rescue
- **Expert Groups:** Our MDT members have been invited to join UK expert groups on 1. Enzymatic Burn Debridement 2. UK guidelines for management of Steven Johnsons syndrome
- **Going green** - Steps taken by Burns team to reduce Carbon dioxide footprint of Burns theatres by making changes to Burns theatre packs and environmentally conscious use of anaesthetic gases.

Challenges during 2021-22

Staffing:

- Staff shortage in nursing, theatre team, therapy, administrative posts, psychology and medical teams presented a huge challenge to the smooth running of our service.

Environment

- Long-overdue Ventilation Works for Pinderfields ICU proposed to commence on Monday 25th April with the actual building works starting on Tuesday 3rd May (after the Bank Holiday Monday). The plan has an expected finish date of approximately 22nd June. Plans are in place to mitigate the risks posed by reduced capacity to admit level 1 and level 3 adult patients.

Patient experience and feedback

Consistently positive feedback and comments on Friends and Family test. One example:

“Excellent staff, kind attentive even though my Son was 16 yrs old and not a burns patient (but surgical in for appendicitis) the staff were AMAZING! ALL staff gave excellent care but the main ones that looked after my Son were:

- [nurse] so smiley all the time and made conversation about topics her and my Son had in common
- [nursing student] who has all the makings of a lovely nurse to be
- [nurse] very informative, caring and very on the ball, knowing when to ask for help and chase up the Doctors

- [AHP] smiley, caring, just lovely all round
- [play therapist] who made my Son smile even when in a lot of pain having his drain removed
- even the cleaners 2 x lovely ladys we had whilst in there were wonderful!

THANK YOU ALL OF YOU

You are all amazing and deserve credit when credit is due (and a Pay rise!!)”

Research and Audit

Trials:

- REENERGIZE - International, multicentre trial; 18 recruited over 2 years

Publications:

- Bowers C, Randawa A, Sloan B, Anwar U, Phipps A, Muthayya P. Enzymatic debridement in critically injured burn patients – our experience and learning of use in the intensive care setting and in resuscitation burns Burns 2021
- Varma P, Kazzazi D, Anwar MU, Muthayya P. The Impact of COVID-19 on Adult Burn Management in the United Kingdom: A Regional Centre Experience. J Burn Care Res. 2021 Sep 30;42(5):998-1002
- Smith K, Poterlowicz K, Southern S, Mahajan AL, Jivan S. The effect of a known object in a static image of a burn to improve the burn size estimation. Burns. 2021 Sep;47(6):1295-1299
- Hughes B, Natalwala I, Kiely J, Ahmad M, Rathi B, Phipps A, Anwar MU, Muthayya P. Posterior ischemic optic neuropathy following a major burn injury and review of the literature. J Burn Care Res. 2021 Aug 4;42(4):821-824
- Whittam A, Stone M, Anwar MU. Contact Burns From Central Heating Radiators in Adults-An Increasing Problem in an Aging Population. J Burn Care Res. 2021 May 7;42(3):495-498
- Taylor L, Kazzazi DN, Kolar MK, Anwar MU. Survey of plastic surgery trainee attitudes to a career as a burns surgeon: A potential workforce dilemma. Burns. 2021 Apr 7
- Sen JPB, Sandhu R, Bland S. Chemical incidents. BJA Educ. 2021 Apr;21(4):126-132.
- M.J.Stonea C.Swalesa S.E.Bondb P.Muthayyaa J.B.Sarma, An outbreak of livestock-associated methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (LA-MRSA) clonal complex 398 in a regional burns centre, December 2021, The Journal of hospital infection 122
- A Sharaf, P Muthayya, Microbial profile of burn wounds managed with enzymatic debridement using bromelain-based agent, NexoBrid® December 2021

Burns: journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries

DOI:10.1016/j.burns.2021.12.004

- N Saghir, J Stallard, A Phipps, P Muthayya, Preventing Paediatric Scalds: A 5 Year Descriptive Analysis, Do We Need to Change Our Approach?
September 2021
Journal of Surgery 7(5)

[Presentations:](#)

International Society of Burn Injury Meeting 2021

Total number of presentations : 28

Several of these presentations had involvement from different groups of the burns MDT, including 28 from surgery, 7 from ICU< 2 from nursing, 4 from therapy and 2 from psychology

Forward into 2022-23

The following actions have been identified:

- Consultant Surgeon, therapy, nursing, psychology expansion - *compliance with national burn care standards*
- Ambulatory Burn Care Unit
- Resume EMSB training for nurses - *compliance with national burn care standards*
- Development of Core Burn Theatre Team
- Consultant Burn Surgeon weekend cover and consistent out of hours cover - *compliance with national burn care standards*
- *Burns dietitian - compliance with national burn care standards*
- *Research* - Improve research profile with increased MDT involvement

Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Centre)

Clinical Lead: Mr Sanjay Varma, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Adult and Paediatric Burns Centres, both with separate general ITUs. Based on a single site as part of a Major Trauma Centre within the Royal Victoria Infirmary site, Newcastle upon Tyne. The patient demographic covers the area from the border with Scotland, Cumbria, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. There is a diverse and geographically distant catchment area. Separate Adult and Paediatric outreach teams cover this area and offer support with dressings and rehabilitation at the patients' home as well as follow up for scar therapy. Transition from paediatric to adult care is facilitated.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Introduction of complex MDT clinics for paediatric patients
- Expansion of tertiary laser service for burn scars, introduction of new laser treatment regimes
- Nexobrid training and protocol placement for introduction
- Introduction of Spincare for paediatric burn management
- Introduction of lifespan role in burns clinical psychology

Challenges during 2021-22

- Covid – difficulties with staffing. Service remained open throughout.
- Data Collection – problems due to long term sickness, and challenges of data input to ibid

Patient experience and feedback

- Excellent patient feedback from Patients and relatives.
- No complaints registered for both services.
- Undergoing independent patient and relative feedback questionnaire for new build.

Research and Audit

Research:

- Recruitment site for NIHR-funded ELABS multicentre burn scar study
- Blond McIndoe Research Foundation grant for laser research development (£10,000)
- Dan's Fund research grant for skin research
- Recruitment site for NIHR-funded PROACTIVE multicentre study exploring attitudes after a burn injury

Presentations

- **Extravasation in children**
RCPH Annual Meeting
Poster
- **Biodegradable temporising matrix in acute burns and complex soft tissue reconstruction**
British Burn Association, Bristol

- Poster
- **Biodegradable temporising matrix: applications in burn care & beyond**
British Burn Association, Bristol
Podium
- **Combination pulsed dye laser and fractional CO₂ laser for hypertrophic burn scar management**
British Medical Laser Association Conference, Edinburgh
Podium
- **Implications of perioperative NG fasting on nutrition in major burns patients: An audit of practice**
ASiT Future Surgeons Conference
Poster
- **The Development of National Burns PREMs**
South West Burn Care Network Annual MDT Conference
Podium

Publications:

- RSTNCOVID Burns: A multi-centre service evaluation and stakeholder survey of the impact of COVID-19 on burns care in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. *J Plast Reconstr Aesthet Surg*; 2021;30;S1748-6815.
- Implications of perioperative NG fasting on nutrition in major burns patients: An audit of practice. *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN* (in press)
- Immediate application of biodegradable temporising matrix (BTM) to a muscle free flap for complex soft tissue reconstruction – A case report. *ePlasty* (in press)
- A review of combination pulsed dye and fractional CO₂ laser for hypertrophic burn scar management. *ePlasty* (in press)

Audit

- Audit of perioperative NG fasting and implications on burns patients nutritional status
- Audit of antibiotic prophylaxis in paediatric burns
- Audit of elderly burn admissions to a regional burn service
- Audit of presence and adequacy of burn first aid in North-East regional emergency departments
- Participation in national service evaluation projecting exploring the use of a burn-specific PREM

Forward into 2022-23

- Plans for New Build progressing well. Challenges with planning and future proofing for Burns service.
- Plans to revisit all the Burn Care standards in relation to Adult and Paediatric services.

St. Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (Burn Centre) *Clinical Lead: Prof. Kayvan Shokrollahi, Consultant Burns, Plastic and Laser Surgeon*

The Mersey Regional Burn Centre serves a population of 6.5 million across Merseyside, parts of Cheshire, North Wales and The Isle of Man. The burn ward 4D has 12 inpatient beds with 8 individual cubicles, 4 of which are HDU level, and is co-located next to the intensive care unit which has a normal working capacity of 5 staffed ITU beds in a segregated area for burn patients. The centre includes a Burn Assessment Unit, a full range of MDT burn care services, outreach service and a supra-regional laser service.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Service continuity maintained despite impact of Covid
- Acclaim and national recognition for the hospital in a number of areas
- A historical level of research output presented at the BBA annual meeting

Challenges during 2021-22

- Impacts of Covid 19
- Staffing levels and Staff retention; having to redeploy staff to maintain safety across the trust.
- Burns Nurse Education Role currently vacant
- Infection Control – VRE outbreak; installation of antimicrobial UV lighting system

Patient experience and feedback

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is the only acute Trust in Cheshire and Merseyside, and one of the few in the entire country, to achieve the title of OUTSTANDING, rated by the Care Quality Commission.

STHK provides a full range of acute adult services to our local population of circa 360,000 and provide tertiary services across a much wider area in the North West, North Wales and Isle of Man. We are a Major Trauma Unit and the Mersey Regional Burns Unit. Our '5 Star Patient Care' strategy is at the heart of all that we do; supporting our vision to provide world class services for all our patients by getting it right for every patient, every time.

Our latest achievements include:

- Acute Trust of the Year – HSJ Awards November 2019
- Trust rates Outstanding by the CQC – Inspection August 2018
- Top 100 places to work in the NHS (NHS Employers and Health Service Journal)
- Best acute Trust in the North West for quality of care (NHS Staff Survey 2021)
- Best place to work in the North West (NHS Staff Survey 2021)

In the NHS Staff Survey 2021 the Trust scored the highest marks in the North West for the following areas:

- Standard of care
- Best place to work
- Care of patients being the Trust's priority
- Staff engagement
- Staff morale
- Compassionate and inclusive
- Providing a safe environment for staff

Research and Audit

- 23 presentations delivered at the BBA annual meeting 2022, the highest number in the UK
- 2 of 3 poster prizes won at the above meeting
- Various other national and international presentations also
- A variety of journal publications and textbooks arising from the department
- 2 journal editorships within the department
- Participation and authorship of the largest clinical trial in the history of burn care
- Master's degree students graduating with distinction
- Research fellow: new post gaining traction

Forward into 2022-23

All aspects of service are regularly reviewed in a multi-disciplinary and cross-departmental fashion, including burns surgical, intensivist and anaesthetics teams, in strict collaboration with all relevant Allied Healthcare Professionals, aiming to assess practice and outcomes in light of best available evidence base and guidance.

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)

Clinical Lead: Miss Jasmine Tang, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust is a designated Major Trauma Centre for the region and services a paediatric population of around 414,000 (0-16 years). The burns unit is on a shared orthopaedic/Plastics/Burns ward with the Burns Unit located on one side of the ward where individual cubicles are located.

Highlights of 2021-22

- 3 staff undertaking the Burns academic course.
- 1 Burns Nurse Specialist passed her prescribing course - first step into developing future ANP type roles within Burns Nursing
- Family Support Nurse role has drastically improved clinic WNB through sending reminder messages and implementing telephone clinics.
- Roll out of MDSAS to our ED.
- Re-establishing "Safety Cross", a monthly morbidity audit to discuss all children with delayed healing with a view to making systematic auditable changes where appropriate and required for improved patient outcome.
- Burns Ward Manager has been approved 6-month cover to undertake a full service review, working with the team and divisional management
- CQC have graded the Theo Burns Club as excellent in their review

Challenges during 2021-22

- The Burns Lead Nurse/Manager manages a combined ward - therefore it had been challenging to undertake a full service review since the move to a combined ward.
- Appointment with time allocated for Burns Clinician Lead Role had been a challenge in the past year - but this has recently been approved at divisional level and the job plan needs to be signed off.
- Challenges remain around ring fencing beds and the pressure created on the ward as a result of not doing this.
- Retention of staff and staff training.
- Retention has been mainly due to nurses relocating back home post covid or leaving nursing.

Research and Audit

Quality improvement pilot project looking at the efficacy of implementing MDSAS as a tele-referral tool within Sheffield Children's Hospital

Forward into 2022-23

To meet the Burns Care Standards:

- We aim to have a Lead clinician in post with agreed time allocation for this role.
- We are working on retention and training of staff +/- need to ring fence burns bed
- We are working towards increasing the number of paediatric burn consultant support to provide more robust care for the children.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)

Clinical Lead: Mr David Ralston MD, FRCS(Plast)

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the designated Trauma Centre for the region. The Adult Burns Unit is co-located within the Major Trauma Centre site at the Northern General Hospital. The burns service is provided in a 6 bedded stand-alone unit, delivering inpatient care for burns up to 40% TBSA, outpatient and dressing clinics. Burns requiring ventilation are managed on the general ITU with outreach from the Burns Unit staff. Burns Operating Theatre in main theatre block adjacent to unit. MDT approach consisting of 3 consultant burn surgeons, nursing staff, occupational and physiotherapy team, psychology and dietetic staff.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Maintaining service during second year of covid-19 pandemic

Challenges during 2021-22

- Due to covid our therapy room has been taken over by theatres and is currently still out of use, meaning we have less space and therapy staff have struggled with this. Senior OT has taken a career break and therefore reliant on Senior Physio covering and OTs filling in.
- Have lost three senior theatre nurses with the most experience running Burns Lists. Have been replaced by more inexperienced and junior staff.

Patient experience and feedback

Friends and family feedback has been excellent, all positive comments, alongside thank you presents and cards. Only 1 complaint currently ongoing

Research and Audit

- Ocular burns audit
- Tetanus audit
- Morbidity and Mortality presented at monthly Plastic Surgery Departmental meeting on the 1st Friday of the month, all consultants(18) and Junior Doctors are expected to attend.
- [Acute Management of Thermal Hand Burns in Adults: A 10-Year Review of the Literature.](#)
Dargan D, Kazzazi D, Limnatitou D, Cochrane E, Stubbington Y, Shokrollahi K, **Ralston D.** *Ann Plast Surg.* 2021 May 1;86(5):517-531.

Forward into 2022-23

We are hoping to appoint a new consultant to cross cover between the Adult and Children's services. This is as part of succession planning as Senior Consultant is retirement age. Candidate for the post has completed Burns Fellowship. Brings new ideas and experience with laser scar management. We hope to instigate a laser service which is something Sheffield currently lacks.

South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)

Clinical Lead: Mr Ben Strong, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough is home to a busy Major Trauma Centre. As part of this, the plastic surgery team provide Facility level burn care. We look after adult and paediatric burns at facility level and occasionally more based on appropriate discussion and agreement with our regional centre in Newcastle. Burns patients are seen on a daily basis in our trauma clinic, or by 24/7 plastics on call team when more urgent assessment needed. We offer a weekly specialist burns clinic run by burns lead consultant, specialist nurse and specialist scar/occupational therapist. We offer a senior nurse-led burns outreach service, with consultant and specialist therapist input as needed. We have access to specialist psychology input as needed.

Highlights of 2021-22

- Appointment of burns outreach/specialist nurse
- New burns lead consultant
- Increasing burns clinic frequency

Challenges during 2021-22

- Difficulty with data input for IBID - all staff trained in this have left department, and we have been working on reimplementing this and improving data collection.
- Ward nursing staff on the adult side has been a challenge due to staff shortage and skill mix issues.

Research and Audit

- Experience of a regional burns facility before and after the Covid-19 pandemic
- Poster BBA 2022

Forward into 2022-23

- Improving data collection, new burns nursing and data collection documents.
- Aiming to increase nurse training on the adult ward (and paedics if possible) to develop skills and knowledge of staff with a particular interest in burn care

Acknowledgements:

This network report has been prepared by members of the NBCN Team.

We are grateful to all clinical and management members of the burns services in the network for making contributions to the content.

Further information about the network, and our work, is available on our website:
www.northern-burncare-network.nhs.uk

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