



# **NORTHERN BURN CARE NETWORK**

**Annual Report  
2022-23**

# 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
- Children's Fire and Burn Trust

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# The Northern Burn Care Network (NBCN)

**The NCBN is one of four operational delivery networks (ODNs) for specialised burn care in England and Wales. During the 2022/23 financial year we had over 6,800 new referrals, of which around 100 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.

## **The key objectives for the NBCN are to:**

- Minimise accidental burn injuries in collaboration with ICSs
- Promote the development of a resilient and specialist burns workforce
- Monitor compliance against National Standards for the Provision and Outcomes in Adult and Paediatric Burn Care
- To ensure that patient experience is understood and acted upon
- Maximise capacity and capability of specialised burn services to deliver the Adult and Paediatric Service Specifications

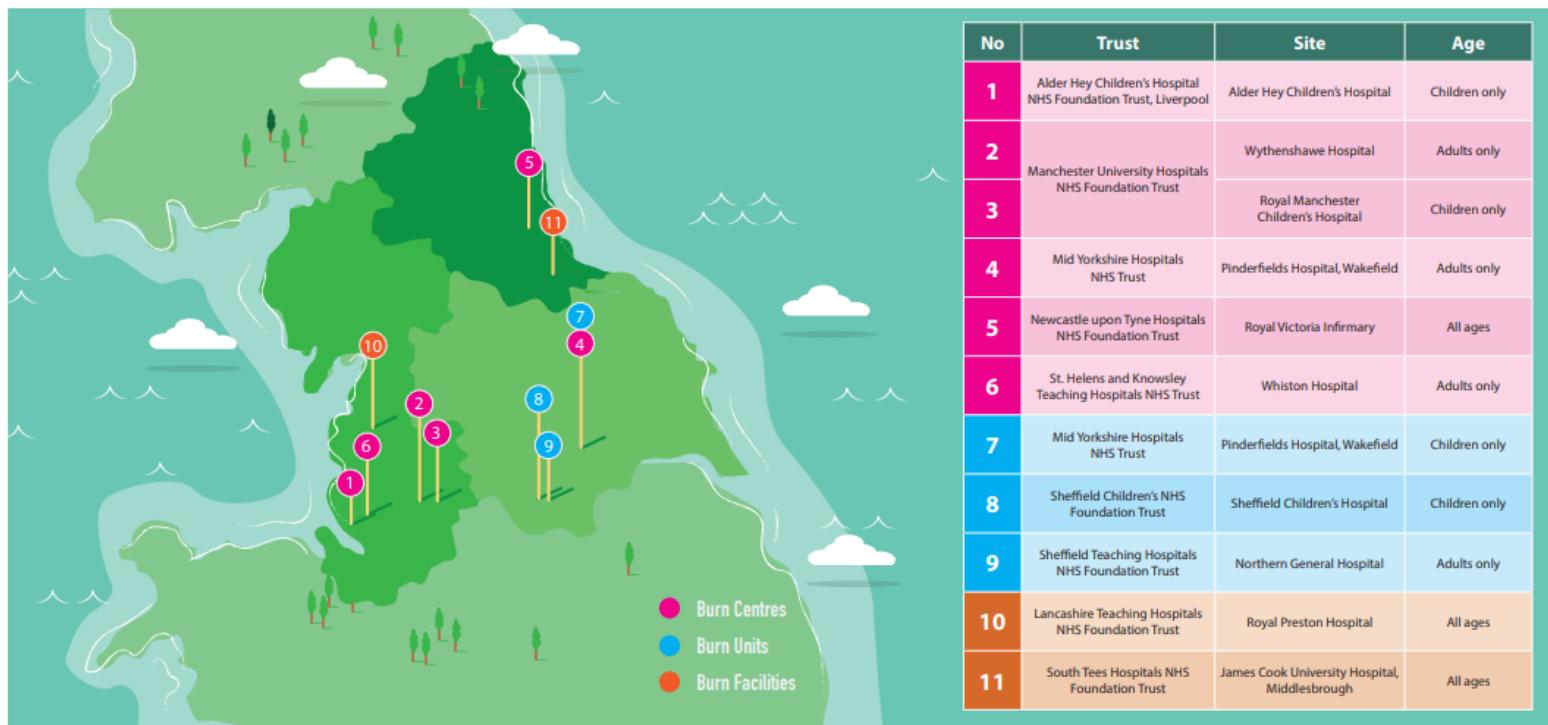
## **Background**

The network is hosted by NHS England North West Specialised Commissioning. The current network manager came into post in November 2022. The network continues to have vacancies due to current recruitment controls within NHS England. The network continues to rebuild service provision after the period of time when there was no network in place.

## **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.

**There are ten hospitals for specialised burns in the network:**



# NBCN Clinical Lead's Introduction

**It is with a great happiness that I introduce to you our 2022-23 Annual Report for the Northern Burn Care Network. During this year we have welcomed a new network manager, and continued to rebuild the network. I would like to recognise the efforts of all staff working in burn care services across the network and thank them for their hard work and contribution to the services.**

Dr Ascanio Tridente  
DMS (Hons), MSc CT, MRCP (Acute), FRCP (Lon), FFICM, PhD  
Consultant Critical Care and Physician  
Clinical Director, Research Development and Innovation  
Associate Editor 'Scars. Burns and Healing' – SAGE. London

# 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 2022-23 to continue the work in re-establishing the network, implementing further governance arrangements and more intensive and focused work programme for 2023 - 24. 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 NBN Team

**A small, dedicated network team supports the NBN. 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.**

## Ascanio Tridente – Clinical Lead

Ascanio joined the network as Clinical Lead in April 2022. He 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 has recently been re-elected as a Trustee of the British Burns Association and contributed to the review of the BBA burns care standards. He is currently the 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.



## Joanne Gaffing – Network Manager



I have worked in the NHS since 2009 – beginning my career in administration and clinical support, before qualifying as a registered nurse. I have experience of both operational and quality improvement across a range of NHS services, delivering measurable outcomes in improved patient care. My immediate priority when I came into post on 1 November 2022 was to continue rebuild the network, looking at collaboration between all services and making connections across the wider system.

### **Fiona Toland-Mitchell – Lead AHP**

Fiona joined the Network as Lead AHP in May 2022. She is an Occupational Therapist at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle Upon Tyne having worked there within Burns for over 25 years. Prior to this, she worked in a variety of Acute, Rehab and Mental Health roles as an OT. For the past 20 years she has worked within the Burns Outreach team with Adults and Paediatrics across the North East and Cumbria. Work interests include scar management and burn aftercare with a strong emphasis on MDT working. She is involved with regional teaching, represent the Network and AHPs on national agendas and have contributed in the past and currently to the revised Standards of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy in the Management of Burn Injured Adults and Children.



### **Emma Hodgkinson – Lead Psychologist**



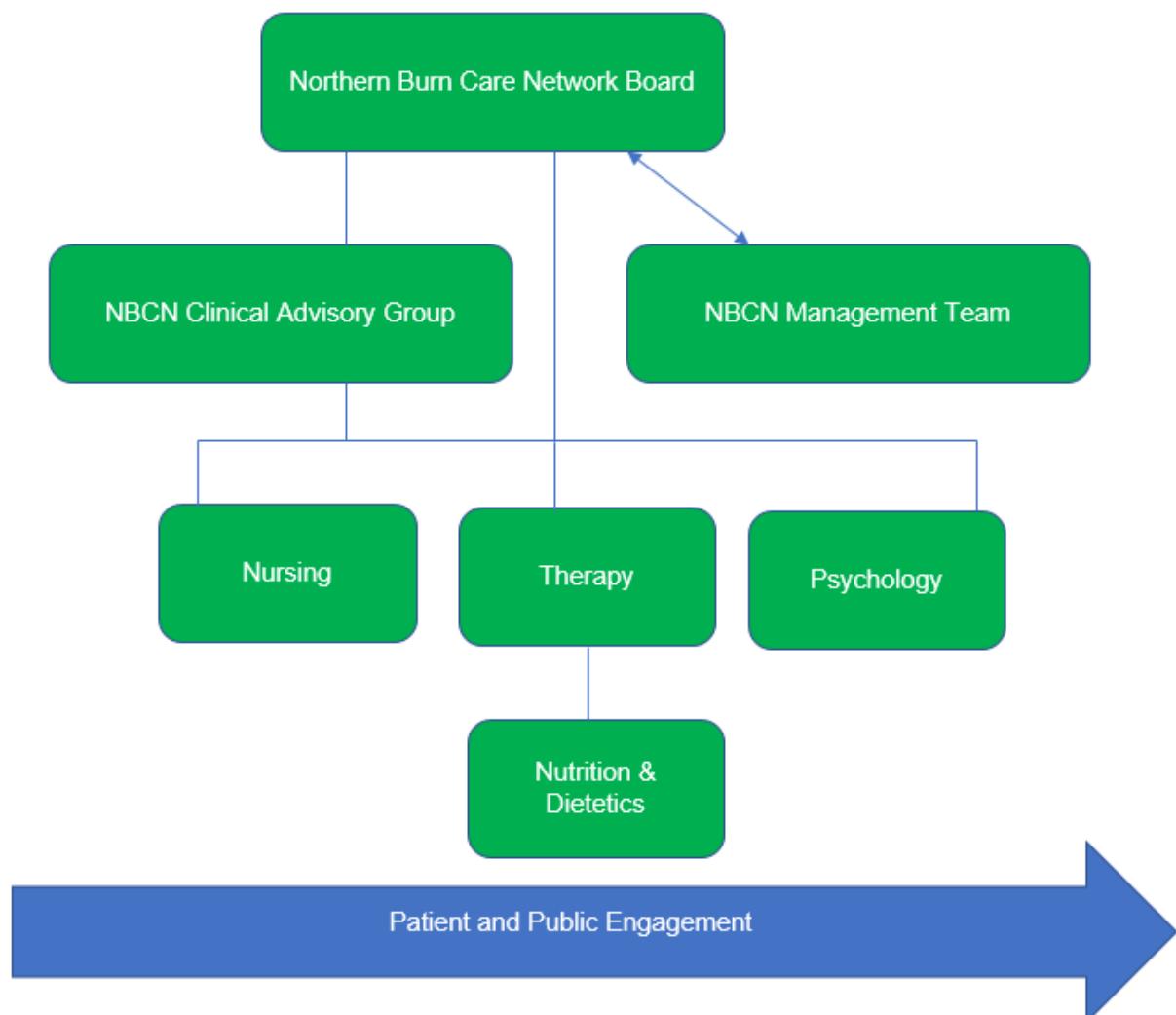
Emma joined the Network as Lead Psychologist in April 2022. She has been a Clinical Psychologist working with children and adults in the Northern Regional Burns Service (Newcastle upon Tyne) since 2014. Alongside direct patient care Emma provides support, teaching and training to the multidisciplinary team, and co-supervises trainee clinical psychologists on specialist placements in the burns service. She undertakes an active role in service development – she is currently leading on a national burns patient experience evaluation project and have supported other activities such as the review of the burn care standards and specifications.

# Network Work Programme and Priorities 2022-23

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 2022-23 was on continuation of re-establishing the network infrastructure and governance arrangements, and identifying areas of non-compliance that may require input.

## Governance

The NCBN has established the following governance framework:



All the above groups have agreed terms of reference, and most are meeting regularly to progress the network work programme. The Clinical Advisory Group has been delayed in its implementation due to staff changeover and vacancy within the Network, but it will be fully established within 2023-24.

The Clinical Lead, Lead AHP and Lead Psychologist have all been recruited to. The Lead Nurse post has been delayed in NHSE recruitment controls, but aims to be recruited to in 2023-24.

The network website continues to run, and is monitored by the Network Team ([www.northern-burncare-network.nhs.uk](http://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 8 March 2023 and was chaired by Doctor Tridente. This meeting reviewed all mortalities in burns services within the NBCN for the calendar year 2022 and there was excellent representation from across the network. Common themes emerging from the cases discussed included:

- Self-immolation due to long-term mental health/a change in mental health
- Law and ethics on treating patients without capacity/consent
- comorbidity impact on frail, elderly burn patients

Four cases were agreed to be presented at the national annual mortality meeting (held on 24 April 2023).

### **Capacity planning and system resilience**

Due to the change in Network Manager, the relationships with critical care networks across the geographical footprint of the NBCN have required to be re-established. This is still in progress, but once established will allow the NBCN to establish processes as part of critical care surge and escalation at Trust and Network level.

## 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**

NBCN members were a part of a task and finish group to develop a new Adult Specialised Burn Care Specification. Will be published in 2023.

NBCN members have been well-represented in the review of the British Burn Association standards. This work will continue into 2023-24, until the new Standards are published.

Network Manager had input into draft Burns Network Specification. Aim to be published 2023.

Dr Emma Hodgkinson (Newcastle) led national work to develop and pilot Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMS) for burns. This work will continue in 2022-23. The working group is in recess while a draft protocol/guidance document is being prepared describing a patient experience evaluation process, which once complete will be presented back to the working group for development and piloting.

All but one service took part in the Regional Mortality Review, for cases to be agreed and presented at the National Mortality review in 2023-24 (April 2023).

# Financial Statement

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

This was spent as follows in 2022-23:

Cost	Amount
Network Manager (vacant post between August 2022 and November 2022)	£61,596.00
Clinical Lead	£30,300.00
Lead AHP	£10,894.00
Lead Psychologist	£5,942.00
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>£108,732.00</b>

The network budget was therefore underspent by **£55,051.00**, which is additional to the underspend in 2021-22. Commissioners approved the use of the 2021-22 underspend to fund improvement projects across the network during 2022-23, which have now been sent to each approved service. Burns services in the network are in the process of implementing the approved projects.

There will be an evaluation event to share improvements and learning in 2023-24.

# Forward into 2023-24

The aim is to recruit into the vacant Lead Nurse post in 2023-24.

The network team will work to deliver the following priorities during 2023-24:

## **Governance and Audit**

- Review of all mortalities in the network and identification of cases to present to the national mortality meeting
- Understand referrals and any declined patients, assess the transfer times and improve pathway
- Monitor and support compliance with newly published Paediatric (2022) and Adult (2023) specifications

## **Education and Training**

- Network MDT/relaunch day
- Network-wide review of methods of teaching and staff support during covid-19 pandemic to facilitate shared learning
- Regional stakeholder education events

## **Quality**

- 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
- Develop Quality Improvement Strategy
- Review existing pathways of care for access to burn care services
- Microbiology in burns research

## **Psychological Care**

- Review the current use of technology in burns services and develop network recommendations
- Review Trauma Informed Care practices in burns services with a view to making network recommendations
- Share and review existing materials relating to transition across the network

## **Burn Care Therapy**

- Review and update network therapy competencies
- Integrate a network-wide rehabilitation prescription process
- Compression garment standardisation review

## **Nursing in Burn Care**

- Map out nursing career pathway, with a view to develop a burn specific ACP role
- Develop nursing workforce strategy (to expand to incorporate all disciplines of the burns MDT)

## **National work**

- NBCN representation continues (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 Patient Experience Evaluation and other ways of gathering patient experience feedback. Network Manager now holds position of National Lead for Patient Experience Evaluation across all four burns networks.
- Contribute to national mortality meeting
- Contribute to British Burns Association review of Burn Care Standards. Aim to be published in 2023.
- Contribute to review of national burn care therapy standards
- Contribute to review of referral criteria and associated documentation

## Annex 1

# NBCN Service Activity 2021

**Total number of all new first referrals to the burns services. Categorised 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. Any case where there is no data to indicate a specific type of burn/skin loss has been included within the 'Other non-burns skin loss' as this is most likely.*

	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
ADULTS	<10%		423	658	868	431	68	No Data	892
	≥10- <40%		14	13	14	1	3	No Data	9
	≥40%		4	4	2	0	1	No Data	6
	ICU Support req.		7	2	0	0	3	No Data	4
	<b>Total Adult Referrals</b>		<b>441</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>No Data</b>	<b>907</b>

	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
CHILDREN	<10%	585	1263	382	772	155	123	No Data	
	≥10- <30%	6	9	4	5	0	1	No Data	
	≥30%	0	4	0	0	0	0	No Data	
	ICU Support req.	0	1	2	0	0	0	No Data	
	<b>Total Paediatric Referrals</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>No Data</b>	

<b>Total referrals</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>1730</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>778</b>
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Non-burns SJS-TENS	0	3	0	1	0	0	No Data	0
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Other non-burns skin loss*	1	43	3	2	0	1	No Data	8
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\*Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome (SSSS) etc.

## 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 Network for Burn Care, 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 garment 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 2022-23

- Our burn specialist nurse was upgraded to band 8A
- Collaborated well with RMCH in providing mutual aid during periods where RMCH capacity was challenged
- Organized and ran a successful EMSB course
- Purchased comfortable seating for parents and children using NBCN grant
- Introduced a SOP which has been successful in ensuring 2 trained staff on shift at all times on the burns unit, and reducing frequency of staff being moved
- Contributed to education nationally and regionally (including to local providers, BBA Educational Day, Sep 2022).
- Alder Hey Trust Quality Assurance Rounds Gold Accreditation awarded Sep 2022 (3<sup>rd</sup> time)
- Alder Hey Trust Quality Assurance Rounds Gold Accreditation awarded May 2021

## Challenges during 2022-23

- Consultant sickness has impacted service capacity
- Since Oct 22, we have not been able to admit burns > 20% TBSA
- Challenges meeting BCS for out of hours cover
- Challenges meeting national paediatric burn specification recommendations that paediatric burn providers should have involvement in adult burn care (no collaboration from local adult centre).
- Changes in theatre personnel on burns lists
- Challenges with staffing in laser service meaning long waits for patient treatments
- Some challenges with stock levels (national issue)

## Patient experience and feedback

- Received positive patient feedback. Some examples below:
  - *'There was consideration of my sons needs as he has learning difficulties and complex needs received lots of support'*
  - *'All that was involved with my daughters care, listened and kept me updated at all times, its hard to put it to words how happy and comfortable they made us feel'*
  - *'Everything the staff are fantastic'*
- We installed a projector in the Assessment Room to improve distraction for children
- Children attended Burns Camp in July 22

## Research and Audit

### Research Activity

- Members of BBA Research SIG
- Engaged in collaborative research, including James Lind Alliance Priority Setting in Burn Research
- Currently auditing procedural pain

### 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).

- Pyrexia in association with scald injuries in the under 5s. Conway L, Wauchope E, Marlow K, Falder S. BBA, Bristol May 2022.

### **Forward into 2023-24**

- To appoint a second full-time burn consultant (business case approved). This will improve sustainability of service, achieve better compliance with Burn Care Standards and NHSE Specifications for Paediatric Burn Care.
- Continue working with Manchester burns services for better future collaboration including potential cross-site working
- Appoint replacement burn research nurse

**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)**  
*Clinical Lead: Mr Chidi Ekwobi BSc(Hons) MBBS MSc FRCS(Plast) Glasg*

The burns service at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals provides facility-level care to a population of 1.6 million people in Lancashire and South Cumbria. The regional Major Trauma Centre at The Royal Preston Hospital site. Hospitals in our region include:

Furness General Hospital, Barrow  
Westmorland General Hospital, Kendal  
Royal Lancaster Infirmary,  
The Royal Blackburn Hospital,  
Burnley General Teaching Hospital  
Blackpool Victoria Hospital

For adult patients 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.

The Burns & Plastics (B&P) therapy team hold an inpatient and outpatient caseload promoting a smooth transition from inpatients to B&P outpatients including scar therapy. There is access to a cosmetic camouflage service.

We also have a trust clinical psychology service that we can access for our burns' clients.

### **Highlights of 2022-23**

- At the time of writing, the recruitment process had started for a Band 6 Clinical Nurse Specialist for Burns & Trauma. The new post-holder will support the Advanced Nurse Practitioner
- Successful recruitment into vacant static Band 6 Physiotherapy post (split post between inpatients & outpatients).
- Over the past few months, worked with colleagues in Manchester to improve communication and the process of repatriation of patients from the burn centre to our burn facility. Cases are now presented over Microsoft Teams.
- Potential funding from the charity, Dan's Fund for Burn charity to improve therapy environment for burns patients and staff has been identified.
- Re-establishment of therapy network meetings, some training and support offered through network has also been a highlight from the past year.
- Within our burns clinics we have been in position to increase the availability of appointments.
- Staff education remains an important aspect of our service and this year we were able to support three members of the nursing staff to attend EMSB

course. Two members of our nursing staff will also be attending the Burns Rehabilitation course at The University of Manchester.

### **Challenges during 2022-23**

- Our ANP is currently on the mandatory ACP course which has led to difficulties in running all the regular burns dressings clinics.
- Recruitment in progress for a Burns & Trauma nurse (band 6).
- No specific OT hours allocated to B&P outpatient services – outpatient splinting supported by experienced hand therapy team/ward OT. Recruitment is in progress for a part-time band 6 B&P OT, but this will be for inpatients only.
- The Skin Camouflage technician has retired but offered to work bank hours until March 2023. The post remains vacant, but recruitment is in progress. Meanwhile a waiting list has been created.
- Created B&P therapy outpatient waiting list in June 22 due to band 6 PT vacancy (post now filled), and a period of long-term sickness. Waiting list remains active.
- Repatriation issues: Therapy outpatient appointment slots are filled far in advance therefore, some repatriation patients force booked into therapists' non-clinical time or allocated ward time when referrals are made at short notice.
- Referrals received from Burn Centre via email on discharge pro-forma – expectation to offer therapy to all repatriated patients even if there is no concern. The therapy service is not able to meet individual patient needs of complex burn patients. Therapists have raised the concern with the Clinical Lead, therapy managers and network manager regarding therapy establishment and capacity to meet the needs of major burn patients repatriated to our service.
- Audit / benchmarking exercise now in progress with the network manager reviewing the funding allocation to therapy services within a burn's facility.
- Therapy area – multi-functional room – potential funding from DANS Fund to aid refurbishment.
- IBID: Ongoing issues remain with the system including the creation of individual accounts. Completion of all the daily dependencies has been impacted upon by the attendance of our ANP to the Advanced Clinical Practice training days.
- Therapy assistant unable to update IBID in a timely fashion if patients not already inputted on to IBID.
- LTHT as a facility does not have a burns outreach service to support patients who have experienced major burn injuries at home.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

- Trainee ANP Involved in Patient Experience Evaluation national working group and this continues.
- Some results received for adults and children.
- Therapists collect Family and Friends feedback.

- Areas highlighted for improvement include pain management on the ward and time to theatre.

### **Research and Audit**

- To commence in June 2023 research study for a silver woven dressing with the trust research development team.
- Audit ongoing looking at the time to surgery from the time of injury.
- Ongoing time to heal audit – monthly.
- Benchmarking exercise/audit to check for equitable accessibility to out-patient services between the regional burn centre and burn facility. JG also looking into accessibility to therapy services at other burn facilities/capacity to benchmark against.

### **Forward into 2023-24**

- Clinical psychology – need to address ward assessments and possible return to Burns MDT
- Environment – hopefully successful in accessing funding to aid refurbishment of therapy space to improve burns patients experience and staff working environment.
- To address demand/capacity mismatch in therapy establishment across both in and outpatient services.
- Cosmetic camouflage – recruit into vacant post- service potentially to be taken over by max fax technicians who completed BASC training.
- Patient feedback - if not continuing with Patient Experience Evaluation group look at still utilising burn specific questionnaires.
- Policies procedures – to update and amend for adults and children.
- Education – increase staff education due to new recruitments.
- Burn competencies – to look at these within the northern network for set competencies for facilities, units and centres.

**Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Centre)**  
*Clinical Lead: Mr Nadeem Khwaja, Consultant Lead, Manchester Burns Service*

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 ward has 8 cubicles and a 4-bed bay, is commissioned for 10 burn admissions. 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 2022-23**

- The unit had a generally positive experience when migrating to the new Trust wide EPR (HIVE) and the team preparation ahead of the live switch on was managed. Extensive training was provided for all staff; this proved to be beneficial and aided the transition.
- A new data clerk has been appointed to maintain up to date iBID records. She continues to enjoy the job and is becoming more confident in the role with support of the Unit and Outreach teams.
- Increase demand for theatre has been able to be accommodates with increase in burns theatre capacity as needed.
- There have been successful trials with Virtual Reality headsets for therapy and dressing changes in both in and outpatients. Patients of all ages found this beneficial to make dressing changes more comfortable. There is also a benefit of increased movement achieved with therapy by interactive tasks using VR.
- Quality and Standards meetings have been reinstated within the service and are proving to be well attended with engagement from the team at all levels.
- The Adult Burns Unit have achieved Gold Standard of outstanding areas in clinical practice. This is a fantastic achievement.
- Continue to host a recognised peri-CCT burn care fellow.

**Challenges during 2022-23**

- The recruitment and retention of nursing staff, both on the Unit and ICU, has proved to be a challenge. Retention within outreach remains steady but there continues to be significant long-term absence.
- With the integration of HIVE came significant change which proved to be challenging. With a number of significant benefits has also come some challenges which we continue to address, such as issues with referrals into the service and a reduction in outpatient capacity.
- Staffing at consultant level remains a challenge (similar to the national picture). We continue to consider models of staffing moving forward, including the non-medical models, to address this.
- Ability to admit patients on time, sometimes due to bed availability, more often due to staffing pressures is an area we continue to explore solutions to.
- An internal review produced a number of recommendations across a number of areas which are now the foundations for service improvement work.

## Patient experience and feedback

- **Burns Outreach**
  - On the whole very positive responses from patients with all being rated very good with the exception of one being rated good and one neither good nor bad.
  - One patient reported (whilst rating as good) that she had been made an appointment at the wrong hospital, the situation was rectified quickly, efficiently and to their satisfaction.
  - Patients reported feeling reassured, safe and well cared for.
- **Burns Unit**
  - On the whole very positive responses from patients with all being rated very good with the exception of two being rated good.
  - Patients reported that their dignity was respected and that they felt well looked after and the staff were caring and professional.

## Research and Audit

- Oasis trial ongoing

## Additional Information

Children (age <16)	Burns	Non-Burns (SJS/TENS)	Other Non-Burns Skin-Loss*
TBSA% <10%	1125		1
TBSA% ≥10% to <30%	9	1	
TBSA% ≥30%	3		
<b>Total Including BPAC New Referrals</b>	<b>1137</b>	1	1

Refusals 11

Adults (age $\geq 16$ )	Burns	Non-Burns (SJS/TENS)	Other Non-Burns Skin-Loss*
TBSA% $<10\%$	In Px– 103 Out Px – 528	0	0
TBSA% $\geq 10\%$ to $<40\%$	32	1	0
TBSA% $\geq 40\%$	4	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

\*Staphylococcal Scalded Skin Syndrome (SSSS) etc.

### Forward into 2023-24

- In the future we look forward to further collaboration between RMCH and Alder Hey Childrens' Hospital.
- Internal service review recommendations action plans to be detailed and enacted.
- We anticipate that theatre capacity will need to be further increased to meet patient demand.
- The use of VR headsets will be supported for a wider population of patients.
- Establishing more stable staffing levels to reduce refusals / delays in accepting cases needing admission.

**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 3 beds and five level 1 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.

Adult and paediatric services run daily outpatient assessment and dressing clinics in the outpatient areas within the burn ward. The burns outreach service provides a 5 day a week service. Outreach team (nurses and therapists) travel to patients' residences for those at home and to other hospitals within our catchment to care for those who are receiving inpatient care.

## **Highlights of 2022-23**

### **Service expansion**

The highlight of 2022 was service expansion and we welcomed new members of the team within several areas of the service.

**Burn Consultant:** Ciara Bowers was appointed as consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon in December 2022, helping the service move closer to providing a Burn specific On Call cover.

**Anaesthetic Consultants:** Dr Selin Kabadayi and Dr Susie Thoms are both new additions to the team.

**Administrative team:** Julie Bennett and Janice Quinn joined the team as administrative coordinators working across the adult and paediatric service. Tracey Anastasiou joined the team as administrative assistant to burns therapy.

**Psychology:** Expansion in Adult Burns Psychology included the recruitment of new Clinical Psychologists Nate Shearman, Rachel Clarke, Helena Holmes, Chloe Miller who will be working within Plastic Surgery and Critical Care with rotational cover into Adult Burns. David Aaron will remain as Lead for Adult Burns Psychology but with an increased emphasis on complex patient work and consultation.

**Theatres:** Martyna Pluta and Mark Norton were appointed to burn theatre specialist and Team Leader respectively, to fill vacancies following retirement during covid.

**Burns Discharge Coordinator:** RN Yvonne Wood was appointed in the burns discharge coordinator role.

**Nursing establishment:** Appointments to supplement adult ward staffing levels to enable an extra staff member on nights and in clinic;

RN Laura Grandidge, RN Biny Kurian, RN Bethany Smith, HCA Shelly Brook, HCA Jijo Chazhukaran, HCA Jane Kaye, HCA Amy Maddison, HCA Molly Walker, NA Nicole Shaw, NA Janine Leach

New appointment to supplement paediatric ward staffing levels ;

RN Megan Whiteley, RN Chloe Giles, RN Kayleigh Kinsey, RN Amy Butterworth, NA Emily Wilson, HCA Gemma Cartwright

**Patient Service Manager:** James Nisbet joined the team as PSM for Burns and Plastic Services. Previous managers roles involved cover of other surgical specialties. James' role will be specific to burns and plastic surgery.

### **ICU Decant**

Due to essential maintenance works in the general ICU, which involved closing half the general ICU beds, the adult burn ward accommodated general ICU patients for an 8 week period in May/June 2022. Despite the challenges faced by a steady run of burns and ICU patients, the service managed to accept all referrals during this period, by excellent team working, utilising plastic surgery wards and converting sedation dressing rooms into ICU cubicles.

### **British Burn Association**

Dr Brendan Sloan, Consultant in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine is now an elected trustee for the BBA, and has also been part of the working group revising the National Burn Care Standards

### **Overseas Work**

**PAPSCON 2023:** Mr Umair Anwar and Dr Brendan Sloan were invited speakers at the Pakistan Association of Plastic Surgery Conference, Feb 2023. It involved talking about enzymatic debridement and developing Burn Care Standards. They visited burn centres in Multan, Islamabad and Rawalpindi, and have set up some collaborative groups aiming to develop closer working relationships and knowledge exchange. Initially, working on some comparative burn epidemiology between the two countries, with the aim that it is published.

### **Volunteering in Ukraine**

Matilda Cook, Adult Burns Nurse is presently working as a surgical ward nurse for UK-Med, a humanitarian healthcare organisation that has been working in The Ukraine since October last year as one aspect of a country-wide response. Matilda is working in a large tertiary hospital in western Ukraine that has been taking patients from frontline regions.

### **Media - Coronation Street**

Paul Blakemore, Charge Nurse on adult burns has been working with the crew on the cobbles to share his expert knowledge of burn wounds to make a powerful storyline as realistic as possible. As part of his work at Coronation Street he also met HRH Princess Ann.

### **Teaching**

Alan Phipps, Brendan Sloan and Preetha Muthayya were actively involved in Trauma Care Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> October as part of the British Burn Association teaching programs.

### **Awards:**

#### **Truly Above and Beyond Award**

The burns therapy team were presented an award for going 'truly above and beyond'. They were given this for their care and provision of therapy to a complex paediatric patient in 2022.

### **Challenges during 2022-23**

- Complex patients and increasing activity levels- Due to wide variations in the numbers and complexity of patients, it is challenging adequately staff the ward with fixed number of nurses allocated per shift.
- Therapy: Huge increase in ICU workload and complex patients has placed the therapy team with unprecedented challenges. Expansion in other areas of the service has also exposed areas for service expansion that are urgently required within the therapy team.
- Challenges in continuing with sedation dressings of ward due to ODP shortages.
- Lack of LASER facilities within the service for burn scar management.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

The burn service friends & family responses continue to be positive. Examples from March 2023 include

“Amazing helpful professional staff and adapted treatment times to allow me to work, excellent”

“Excellent, informative, efficient, friendly, reassuring”

“The staff were all very welcoming, informative and great with my dad who has limited understanding due to having dementia”

“The staff are always polite, very helpful, very efficient, very competent at their job”

“The staff are excellent, caring, explain everything”

“Very careful & gentle. Timing was excellent. All staff very supportive can't do enough for you”

“Every member of staff involved in the care of my son were brilliant, took time to reassure him and made sure that we as parents understood everything that was happening/going to happen. Thank you”

“5 star rating - Brilliant team, efficient, knowledge was good. All questions answered. Quick, good patient care”

## Research and Audit

### Publications:

1. A comparison of the epidemiology of isolated and non-isolated hand burns  
May 2022 Burns journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries Dallan P Dargan, Ghita Himmi, Mohammad Umair Anwar, Preetha Muthayya
2. VTE Prophylaxis and Anti-Factor Xa Measurement In Major Burns: A Survey of UK Practice September 2022Burns: journal of the International Society for Burn Injuries Anna Payne, Phillipa Richardson, Preetha Muthayya
3. A Randomized Trial of Enteral Glutamine for Treatment of Burn Injuries  
A Randomized Trial of Enteral Glutamine for Treatment of Burn Injuries.  
Heyland DK RE-ENERGIZE Trial Team. N Engl J Med. 2022 Sep 15;387(11):1001-1010.- Collaborators- B Sloan, S Buckley, V Wagstaff, A Metcalfe, P Muthayya
4. Potter, M., Aaron, D., Mumford, R., & Ward, L. (2023). An evaluation of clinical psychology input into burns multidisciplinary follow-up clinics. Scars, *Burns & Healing*, Vol 9.

### Presentations:

1. The effect of respiratory comorbidities and smoking on major burns with inhalation injuries: A 10 year review of outcomes at a UK Burns Centre. C Magness, et al BBA conference Bristol
2. Introduction of an enhanced venous thromboembolism protocol for adults with major burns:- Initial results from a regional burns centre, P Richardson et al, BBA conference Bristol
3. The role of anti-factor Xa measurement in major burns: literature review and survey of UK practice" A Payne et al
4. The use of oxandrolone in moderate to severe burns- Experience of a regional burn service' Feathers, J. et al. BBA Conference Bristol

## Forward into 2023-24

- Appointment of consultant post 6, which will bring us to a full completion of Burn Surgeons.
- Develop Closer adult-paediatric service links.
- Business cases to expand paediatric psychology provisions, dietetics and therapy.
- Appoint Burns ODP role to facilitate sedation dressings.
- Develop laser service

**Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Centre)**  
*Clinical Lead: Mr Sanjay Varma, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

The Newcastle Burns service is the most northern part of the Northern Region Burns Network, covering the North East of England and Cumbria. The catchment area is geographically vast as it covers the border with Scotland, Cumbria, Northumberland, part of the Lake District and North Yorkshire. The Burns' service in Newcastle is unique within the UK as it provides Centre level care for Adult and Paediatric patients on a single site, as part of a Major Trauma Centre.

Being part of a MTC has obvious benefits of easy and rapid access to all specialties. This is invaluable in managing complex patients with major burn injury and polytrauma. Having both Centres on a single site enables joint working, continuity of senior personnel with dual responsibility and assistance with transition from Paediatric to Adult care. All aspects of holistic Burn care are provided.

**Activity**

**Paediatric Burns Centre:**

*477 Patients <10% TBSA; 6 Patients 10%-30% TBSA; 1 Patient >30% TBSA.*

**Adult Burns Centre**

*664 Patients <10%TBSA; 13 Patients 10%-40% TBSA; 5 Patients >40% TBSA.*

*The above figures were presented at the National Burns Audit covering the period 01/01/2022-31/12/2022.*

**Staffing Changes**

**W37: Adult Burns Centre**

- Ward clerk re-banded to band 3 data officer to capture our service's referral activity.
- Band 6 Sister with 34 years' service to the Northern Regional Burn Service retirement.
- Band 6 Succession planning – experienced band 5 staff nurse successful in recruitment to band 6 sister.
- Band 6 sister to take band 7 secondment for maternity leave cover of band 7 outreach sister
- Three new band 5 staff nurses from neurosurgery, trauma and a recent student just qualified successful in recruitment and we welcome their skills to the team.
- Band 5 international nurse recruited to the team, undergoing burn specific training.
- Band 4 Nurse associate role created through RCG– currently completing TNA training and will be qualified in September 2024.
- Band 3 Health Care assistant recruited to the team from women's services.
- All band 2 healthcare assistants to be up graded to band 3.

- Succession planning in place for retirement of Senior Nurses within next 24 months.

#### Ward 11: Paediatric Burns Centre

- Recruitment of new band 7 sister
- New TNA (Trainee Nurse Associate role – Band 3 whilst training but when qualified will be a band 4) to assist with ward duties and dressing clinic under the supervision of band 6 or 7)
- Clinical educator for paediatric burns and plastic surgery started May 2022 (29 hours 60% burns and plastics 40% corporate work) – Natalie Lee
- Band 7 Clinical Psychologist role (adults) re-banded to band 8a
- Maternity leave – Sophie Robson (nurse educator role), Emma Bousfield (outreach specialist nurse), Danielle Cross (paediatric clinical psychologist secondment cover)
- Secondments - Sara Heary (paediatric Clinical Psychologist)
- Retirement – Bridie Grant (Consultant Clinical Psychologist)

#### Rehabilitation:

Lisa Slack OT upgraded from Band 6 to a Band 7 from Critical Care funding in Adults Critical Care, Burns, Plastic and Surgery in September 2022.

Fiona Toland-Mitchell OT appointed AHP Burns Lead for Northern Burn Care Network in May 2022

#### **Highlights of 2022-23**

#### Service Developments

- The team returned to routine face-to-face MDT and service development meetings following the Covid-19 pandemic
- In September 2022, the service was loaned some virtual reality equipment for a ward-based trial. A number of staff members were trained in the use of the equipment, but unfortunately it could not be implemented with patients due to infection control concerns. Funding remains available for the lease or purchase of the equipment.
- Early in 2023, the Burns Volunteer Service was established, with work focusing on developing policies and pathways, role descriptions and paperwork. The first Burns Volunteer Recruitment evening was held with great success, signing up eight volunteers to roles across the adult and paediatric services.
- The service developed a multidisciplinary clinic to be run ad hoc for both adult and paediatric patients requiring the involvement of the whole MDT due to transition, complex needs, or planning for surgery. The format of this clinic requires the attendance of both Consultant Burns Surgeons, Specialist Physiotherapist, Specialist Occupational Therapist, Burns Specialist Nurse, and Clinical Psychologist along with professionals from any other specialties

involved in the patient's care. The team is briefed as to the patient's background and the rationale for inviting them to the clinic, before conducting a consultation with the patient and their family according to their needs. The patients are then asked to wait outside the room while the team discusses the action plan, before sharing this with the patient. Documentation is shared across the team. Two iterations of this clinic have been run successfully to date, with more planned in accordance with patient demand. A patient information leaflet was developed to accompany this clinic.

- Spincare/Epiproct dressings were introduced in Paediatric and Adult burns service ,with patient information and photographs being obtained to review success in use.
- Following long consultation process with ward personnel, architects and estates the finalisation of layout and room specifications for the Great North Specialist care Hospital Richardson wing Northern Regional Burn Centre. Also planning permission granted by City council.
- Nexobrid – senior staff conversations with other units using this product and senior staff and consultant visits to Nottingham and Madrid to collate best practice. Competencies written by Education Nurse and signed off by Trust education lead
- BTM – implementation of the use of Bio Temporising Matrix – Multi-disciplinary approach to its use and benefits to outcome.
- Ongoing assessment of Suprathel, Surfaseal, and Recell
- Sensory Normalisation Focus Group & Project:
- Lisa Slack, Advanced OT led on a Sensory Normalisation project in Critical Care to aid manage delirium and cognitive deficit. A presentation to Royal College of OT critical care network was received with great success, identifying Lisa as an innovative lead in this aspect of care. Plans are in place to introduce the concept and intervention onto the Adult Burns Ward. A focus group has been completed with members of Burns MDT and posters and assessment tool has been adapted to suit the environment. A poster has been accepted for the BBA 2023.
- Nursing bursary grant
- The Ann Andrews Nursing Travel and Education Trust Fund was set up following an inheritance debenture. This has been accessed to provide help with travel and education for nursing staff.

#### **Adherence to burn care and other clinical standards**

- In summer 2022, the service undertook the self-assessment compliance exercise as required by the region's commissioning body following the publication of the revised paediatric specification for burns services.
- The team proactively continues to collate evidence, develop policies, protocols, pathways and written patient information in readiness for further peer review or self-assessment according to the standards.
- Louise Johnson, Advanced Physiotherapist participated in Quality checks for the South East and London Burn Care Networks October 2022.
- Louise Johnson represented therapies on the National Burn Care Standards.
- Fiona Toland-Mitchell OT participated on the review panel of the National Standards of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Standards 2022.

## **Network Activities**

- The service continues to proactively support the Northern Burn Care Network, attending meetings and contributing to regional service evaluation/development as required including the self-assessment against the revised paediatric specification.
- Two members of the team secured roles within the Northern Burn Care Network clinical board – therapy lead and psychosocial care lead.
- The team submitted three bids to the NBCN underspend funding grant, and were successful in receiving funding to support the purchase of a Spincare device and the lease or purchase of a set of virtual reality equipment for the adult ward.
- Nursing staff from ward 11 and outreach team have attended 2 lead nurse meetings with the northern burn care network lead.
- The AHP team members, OT, Physiotherapy and Dietitians engage and participate in Network meetings and work plans. They remain in touch regularly with Burn AHPs.

## **National and International Activities**

- The service has contributed to a number of national activities over the past twelve months, notably providing four staff members to support the updating and revision of the National Standards for Burn Care under the BBA, as well as the revision of both the adult and paediatric specification for burn care.
- The Burns Clinical Psychology team have continued to play a leading role in the national “Patient Reported Experience Measure” working group, and are looking to develop a policy or pathway to be used nationwide to support the effective evaluation of patient experience within burn care.
- Consultant and Senior Nurse attended international study day on enzymatic debridement in Madrid to share, collate, and learn best practice.
- Senior Nurse successful in being one of 4 nurses in country to be selected to support New Zealand Burn Service during Volcano eruption Major incident. Reflection, presentation and poster presentation at BBA
- In 2022, members of the burns MDT were involved in supporting the development of burn care and infrastructure in Tanzania. This ongoing partnership with Bright Northumbria, Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre and the burns centre staff looked to continue developing and supporting the burn service in Moshi post-COVID. Two members of staff (Burns Consultant & Senior Sister) were kindly supported by the Newcastle Hospitals Charity to attend. This venture will continue in 2023.
- There was broad representation of the Northern Regional Burn Centre at the British Burn Association in Bristol. Presentations (both podium and poster) were delivered by our surgeons, outreach Sister and Clinical Educator.
- The Burns Therapists remain active within the Burns Specialist Interest Group and engage in national conversation and sub meetings sharing expert advice/ peer supervision/ best practice.

- **Prevention and Awareness**

- The service is proactively using its Twitter feed to promote safety and prevention messages around key seasonal and cultural events, as well as linking in with other organisations relating to burn care such as the Children's Burns Trust to attempt to initiate a campaign promoting safety in the use of hot water bottles.
- The MDT was successful in obtaining a grant from the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Charity to create a patient information film promoting burns safety, prevention and first aid. The film was premiered at the National Burn Awareness Day event in October and disseminated to the region's GP commissioning groups and a wide range of community organisations, as well as being hosted on the Newcastle Hospitals YouTube channel resulting in over 1200 views to date following publicity over social media.
- An event was hosted to promote National Burn Awareness Day in October 2022 with great success. Members of the burns team, volunteers for the service along with the fire brigade staffed an information stand and spoke to visitors to the Trust about burns safety and demonstrating first aid procedures. A parallel Twitter stream disseminated safety and prevention videos throughout the course of the day.
- In October/November 2022, the team also featured twice in the media; firstly for a piece for Romanian audiences upon the anniversary of the nightclub fire eight years ago after which two patients were cared for under our service. The second piece was filmed for BBC Look North promoting burns safety and first aid in light of the cost-of-living crisis.

### **The Grafters Club**

- The Grafters Club has restarted its usual service provision following a pause due to the Covid-19 pandemic, running a successful trip to Flamingo Land, residential burn camp to Kingswood, Hexham and a Christmas party for families in December. In recognition of the charity's endeavours, The Grafters Club was nominated for a Trust excellence award in November 2022 by the parent of one of the members.
- In December 2022 the team undertook a service evaluation using Group Concept Mapping methodology to explore staff and family perceptions of the remit of The Grafters Club. Findings indicate that The Grafters Club is perceived to fulfil expectations in terms of supporting children and young people to build confidence and improve their body image after a burn injury, but that there is an unmet expectation for peer support amongst parents. The report describing this evaluation is under review as an invited publication with the European Burn Journal.

### **Teaching and Training**

- In March 2023 the service successfully ran a network study day targeted to referring professionals and services across the region. Presentations ranged across topics including referral processes, mental health and self-harm, surgical practices, non-accidental injury, pain management, pre-hospital care.

37 candidates attended and feedback from the day was excellent. Preparation is underway for a further study day in March 2024

- Burns and Plastic Surgery Course accredited by Northumbria University

#### Burns Nursing Education Team teaching sessions

- Six teaching sessions with RVI PEAU on burn assessment/care and referrals.
- Four teaching sessions to Carlisle A+E/CCN staff around burn assessment/care and referrals
- Teaching delivered to Ponteland Road UCC staff around burn assessment/care and referrals.
- Teaching delivered to PICU RVI to newly qualified nursing staff on care of a major burn.
- Burns Nursing Education Team supporting newly qualified nursing staff on ward 11 and in dressing clinic to be able to assess and care for children with burn injuries.
- Regional burns link nurse day held in summer 2022.
- Burns Consultant: Laser presentation to Burn Therapist meeting.

#### Course Attendance/Provision

- Sim man courses x 3
- EMSB host
- Lisa Slack teaching for Royal College of OT re Sensory normalisation
- 3 staff completing Burns Manchester Rehab module
- Barry Noble/ Fiona Tolland/ Louise Johnston being supervisors to sign competencies of above
- Providing student placements

#### **Challenges during 2022-23**

None reported

#### **Patient experience and feedback**

Comments from cards received on Ward 37:

- *“My heartfelt thanks to all the staff on Ward 37. Thank you for your Nursing care, diligence, compassionate, exceptional caring and courteous manner that you showed me from getting on to the ward...to my discharge. This has made all the trauma that I had experienced so much easier. I feel that these words are nowhere near enough for what you deserve. Thank you all again.”*
- *“Hi Everyone! Thank you all again from the bottom of my heart, for the kindness and expertise you showed my Mum and the wisdom and warmth which you showed me and my family and friends! What a great team you are.*

*Exemplary. Worthy of praise! I hope that you are proud of the work you do. Best wishes.”*

- *“Thank you to all the staff on ward 37. I am sure the burn on my leg was very minor to what you are used to be caring for but every single member of staff made me feel so welcome and looked after. Thank you again.”*
- *“Dear everyone on ward 37. Thank you very much for all your attention to me over the last week. You have made a very difficult situation much more pleasant for me and I am very grateful for everything.”*
- *“To all staff on ward 37. Thank you so much for your excellent care. Every single member of staff I came across were so lovely and kind .Please enjoy these chocolates as a small token of my thanks. As a fellow nurse I know they won’t last long Ha Ha !”*
- *“To all the staff on the Burns Centre RVI, Thank you so much for the wonderful and professional care you have given our daughter over the past 9 days. You are all a great credit to your profession, your care has been appreciated by us all at what has been a difficult time. Thank you so much.”*

Comments from cards received on Ward 11:

- *“To Everyone, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to all of you for helping us through one of the worst times in our lives. You have all been incredible in every way possible and more. Words cannot express the gratitude I owe to all of you”*
- *“Thank you so much on Christmas eve, me my partner and our son arrived in your care in the early hrs of Christmas eve, distressed, scared and my little one in the most pain he has ever felt. You all were so caring, so kind and calm enough to calm us. We are forever grateful for everything you did for our son on the worst day of his life so far. THANKYOU”.*
- *“Thank you for helping me when I was very ill. I’m so glad that I met you all. I’m going to miss you all”*

No complaints received.

## **Research and Audit**

### Research:

- The Northern Regional Burn Centre has seen a rapid expansion in research delivery throughout the MDT disciplines.
- Recruitment ended for the PROACTIVE NIHR-funded study, in which the service was a recruitment site. There were significant delays and difficulties in negotiating the start of recruitment and so only eight participants were recruited.

The team are continuing to support the publication and dissemination of the findings, being listed as co-authors on the resulting paper.

- We have served as a recruitment site for the 'Early laser for burn scar' (ELABS) NIHR-funded study and have recruited 13 participants at the time of writing. Coordination of this study has involved the outreach and laser teams together with Chris Lewis, serving as local principal investigator.
- We are commencing recruitment for the CLIPSO (Combination laser impact on scar outcomes) trial in October 2023. This is funded jointly by the Royal College of Surgeons and Blond-McIndoe Foundation. We have also forged commercial research relationships with Coloplast and will be assessing a novel dressing over the next few months. Mr Lewis is serving as chief PI for the UK in this study.
- Finally, we continue offering Consultancy services to Newcastle University Engineering department in the development of novel devices for wound treatment.

### [Presentations](#)

- Feb 2023 Biodegradable temporising matrix in acute burns and complex soft tissue reconstruction: The Newcastle experience
- ISBI, Birmingham (Podium)
- Oct 2022 Biodegradable temporising matrix in acute burns and complex soft tissue reconstruction: The Newcastle experience
- ESPRAS 2022, Portugal (Podium)
- May 2022 Biodegradable temporising matrix in acute burns and complex soft tissue reconstruction: The Newcastle experience
- British Burn Association, Bristol
- May 2022 Biodegradable temporising matrix: applications in burn care & beyond
- British Burn Association, Bristol
- May 2022 A review of combination pulsed dye laser and fractional CO<sub>2</sub> laser for hypertrophic burn scar management
- British Medical Laser Association Conference, Edinburgh
- BAPRA Nurses meeting Nottingham November 2022: Scar Management, An MDT approach.

### [Publications:](#)

- Chan C, Zhang L, Pandit R, Lewis CJ. A very unusual burns complication: Bilateral endogenous bacterial endophthalmitis. *Eplasty* (In Press)
- Teelucksingh S, Chang C, Henton J, Lewis CJ. Immediate application of biodegradable temporising matrix (BTM) to a muscle free flap for complex soft tissue reconstruction – A case report. *Eplasty* 2022;22:e29.:.

### **Forward into 2022-23**

- Preparation is underway to host the BBA Conference in 2026.
- Sign off from Trust Board and obtaining full planning permission for a new build Critical Care block on the Royal Victoria Infirmary site. The Adult Burns Centre

will be collocated with Critical Care and will move on completion of the project. This has been a five year ongoing project with full sign off in regard to planning. The business case has been approved by the Trust board.

- Plans for implementation within the Adult burns centre for a nurse led clinic based on the success of the Paediatric nurse led clinics.

### **Staffing**

- Recruitment will be completed for the post of Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Psychology lead in the burns service.
- Looking into the advanced clinical care practitioner role (Band 8) to develop nurse led burn reviews.

### **Innovation**

- It is hoped that the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Trust IPC Team will finalise their protocols and recommendations around the use of virtual reality equipment so that equipment can be purchased or leased for use in the adult burns service.
- Proposals have been raised to host a quarterly multidisciplinary journal club to promote ongoing service development. Discussions are ongoing as the most appropriate format for this journal club.

### **Research**

- Efforts are ongoing to secure funding to explore the use of the electronic Tetris game to ameliorate the presence of nightmares and flashbacks following a burn injury for young people and adults.
- A research proposal entitled “Repertory grid study: Construal of patients depending on the mechanism of their burn injury” has been submitted to the Clinical Psychology Doctorate’s research compendium for distribution to Trainee Clinical Psychologists in November 2023. It is anticipated that this research project will explore the perception of patients by burn care professionals depending on their burn mechanism, recruiting from burns services nationally.

**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.

12 inpatient beds

Up to 5 ICU beds, 2 commissioned

Burn Assessment Unit

Outreach service

Full range of AHP and MDT burns services, large prosthetics service, plus research team

Supra-regional laser service

Research Centre

### **Highlights of 2022-23**

- Appointment of New Ward Manager
- Positive outcomes in a number of serious burn injured patients
- Tremendous research outputs and prizes
- Appointment of Dr Tridente, Intensive care consultant as Network Lead after end of Prof Shokrollahi's tenure

### **Challenges during 2022-23**

- Staffing Levels
- Retirements and a junior cohort of new staff
- Very busy service with additional pressures from temporary suspension of outreach service
- Infection control and multi-resistant organism: a constant battle in burn care
- Compliance with BBA dietetic and Psychology standards

### **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.
- 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)
  - St Helens Hospital Best in North West at Britain in Bloom Awards

- Best in England 4 years in row Patient Led assessment Care Environment (PLACE) (2023)
- In the NHS Staff Survey 2023 the Trust scored the highest marks in the North West and still ranked as the best place to work and best place to receive care in the region
  - Being a compassionate and inclusive employer
  - Positive staff engagement
  - High staff morale
  - Working as a team
  - Providing a safe and healthy environment
  - Giving staff a voice that counts and rewarding staff
  - Friends and Family report consistently demonstrate 100% positive rating: “I cannot fault the care and attention given to me by Ward 4D”
  - “Doctors and staff are a credit to the NHS”
  - “Best hospital in Liverpool – I felt safe and secure”
  - “Treated with dignity and respect, communication was outstanding”

### **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
- 21 Presentations accepted at the BBA annual meeting 2023
- Various other national and international presentations also including EBA Turin
- 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 ‘Re-Energize’ leading to authorship and publication in the world’s highest ranked journal – New England Journal of Medicine.
- Affiliations with 3 Universities

### **Forward into 2023-24**

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.

The BBA Burn Care Standards will be published and finalised in 2023 and there will be a focus on achieving compliance with these standards when they are published.

**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 2022-23**

**Medical**

- Burns Lead Time of 1PA provision as per Burn Care Standards approved and supported by SCH
- Mandated use of E-Referral platform for Burns referrals now approved for roll-out by 1 July 2023

**Psychology**

- Charlotte Wright (CW) (Burns Psychologist) now back from maternity leave so the burns team has dedicated Psychology cover once more.
- Trainee Psychologist (3<sup>rd</sup> year) has been on placement with me Sept 22 – Sept 23. Laura Smethurst (LS) (trainee) has been able to pick up cases, attend MDT, cover clinic etc.
- CW has taken on the role of Secretary for the BBA Psychosocial SIG group, further embedding her links within the burns psychology network.
- Psychology continues to not need to hold a waitlist, and patients usually receive a p/c within two weeks of referral being made.

**Nursing**

- Nursing staff throughput on EMSB
- 3 nursing staff successfully completed Manchester Burns Course and 2 more currently studying.
- Manager given secondment time to facilitate burns ops issues and ensure a robust burns team and process.
- BNS successfully completed V300
- Restart of our monthly Burns Club activities to support our families
- Developed Burns Nursing Competency training framework.
- The implementation of trust level training plans and education that our Burns Lead Nurse has led on, including collaborative working with NurEmbrace, PCCU and Theatres.
- At ward level, Burns Nurse Specialists have provided ongoing training and support.
- PCCU involvement with the MDT.
- Development of the Band 4 Coordinator role to support IBID data input

**Therapy**

- Debbie Smith back from adoption leave so Physiotherapy lead cover is restored.
- NBCN therapy meetings restarted and attended – liaison with other services in the North

- Joint working with Pinderfields discussing a difficult case they have there and problem solving together.
- Able to attend a lot of training this year.
- Enhanced handover/communication through implementation of Careflow connect.
- New full time band 7 OT lead (increased hours from previous post-holder)
- Able to see all scar management patients with no waiting list/delay.
- Able to attend family weekend.
- Additional support for cosmetic camouflage (now 2 members of staff)

## Challenges during 2022-23

### Medical

- Only 1 Burns Consultant on site with support from 3 Burns Consultant at STH poses the challenges of cross site working when the on site consultant is on leave/away.

### Psychology

- The psychosocial screening is an ongoing challenge. Key members of the nursing staff have now picked this up.
- CW only works Wed-Thurs, and the trainee is also mainly in on these days. This means that the ward are without dedicated psychology input on other days.

### Nursing

- Clarify funding and finance for service.
- Managing new referrals and staffing to improve patient journey

### Therapy

- Lena Plaskitt retired in October; promoted from within so have had gaps in the OT service.
- Olivia Matthew has been on maternity leave throughout the whole period and backfilled by a newly qualified therapist.

## Patient Experience and feedback

- Collected some data over the past month – excellent feedback overall

### Psychology

- CW continues to use Narrative EMDR approach with young children referred, this appears to be working well and has good verbal feedback from parents.
- Families often refer in their psychology sessions to the excellent care they have received from the burns team, and is often noted as a protective / positive factor in their formulation.

### Nursing

- We have had excellent feedback for the ward as a whole. Challenge is to get feedback for burns as a service.

## **Research and Audit**

- Attendance at BBA

## **Psychology**

- CW attended BBA National Conference 2022 in Bristol and met up with other psychologists across the country (from both adult and paediatric services).
- CW has submitted a poster abstract for Dublin BBA Conference 2023 about Narrative EMDR.
- CW and LS are pulling together a training package for burns nursing staff, based around the psychology competency section of their training.

## **Nursing**

- Attendance at BBA

## **Therapy**

- Attendance at NBCNTSDG meetings
- 2 members of staff attended scars A-Z
- 2 members of staff attended the BBA day on the Trauma Care conference
- 2 members of staff attended Burns therapist interest group study day
- 2 members of staff now trained in cosmetic camouflage
- 1 member of staff attended EBA (virtual attendance)
- Review of zinc oxide treatment (to be written up)

## **Forward into 2023-24**

### **Medical**

- Re-evaluating service needs to provide safe and robust cover from senior clinicians

### **Psychology**

- CW attending Family Weekend in Penrith April 2023.
- CW attending BBA conference 2023 in Dublin.
- Continued monitoring of psychosocial screen.
- Complete training package and launch.
- CW considering developing an online group for parents – a therapeutic space to reflect on their experiences of their child sustaining a burns injury.

### **Nursing**

- Establish Nurse-Led Burns Referral and Assessment clinic.
- Establish clear admission process for burns patients.
- Roll out MDSAS across our feeder ED's
- Develop a MDT care document (possibly electronic) for our cohort.
- Embrace electronic prescribing

### **Therapy**

- Olivia Matthew back from maternity leave and upgraded to band 7
- Therapy transfer to electronic notes – will aid communication
- To restart research on experiences of the burns service of non-English speaking families
- Further training opportunities
- Research focus for the year

**Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)**  
*Clinical Lead: Mr David Ralston MD, FRCS(Plast)*

Six bedded stand alone unit taking up to 40% burns. Serves South Yorkshire, North Nottinghamshire, North East Derbyshire and adjacent areas of Lincolnshire (population 1.5 million). Ventilated burns treated on the General Intensive Care Unit.

MDT approach consisting of:

3 consultant burn surgeons, nursing staff, occupational and physiotherapy team, psychology and dietetic staff.

Patients treated in 2022-23:

Adults (age $\geq 16$ )	Burns	Non-Burns (SJS/TENS)	Other Non-Burns Skin-Loss*
TBSA% $<10\%$	819	0	0
TBSA% $\geq 10\%$ to $<40\%$	17	1	0
TBSA% $\geq 40\%$	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

### Highlights of 2022-23

- We have renewed our operational policy and have developed a new skin grafting patient information leaflet.
- We have established a more robust clinical standards quarterly meeting.
- Therapy Room back in use post Covid(see 2021-22 report under challenges).
- No outbreaks of multi-resistant organisms(MRO) in the last 12 months.

### Challenges during 2022-23

- Since the Covid pandemic the ring fence around the Burns Unit was broken and now it is normal practice to have many outliers pass through the Unit. Ideally these should be Plastic Surgery patients or short stay patients from other surgical specialities. We aim to keep at least 1 bed free for emergency

admissions. We try not to take potentially infective cases with chronic wounds etc (high MRSA risk).

- Nursing establishment has had significant turnover and experienced staff have been replaced with enthusiastic but junior nurses.
- Therapy team are under staffing pressure with lead OT on a career break but replaced with an experienced and very dedicated team member.
- Theatre team have lost experienced scrub nurses and it is taking time for their replacements to upskill.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

- Friends and family feedback has been excellent, all positive comments, alongside thank you presents and cards.
- No complaints ongoing

### **Research and Audit**

- Ongoing infection control audits show good compliance
- Presented at Northern Burns Care annual mortality audit. No concerns raised about our cases presented, both Burns and TENS.

### **Forward into 2023-24**

- To roll out MDSAS formally for referrals and medical photography
- To update guidelines for return to work /education and independent living (A06)
- To try and get new nursing staff onto appropriate courses including EMSB.

**South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)**  
*Clinical Lead: Mr Ben Strong, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

Burns facility in a medium sized plastic surgery unit in a large tertiary referral hospital/major trauma centre. We look after adult and paediatric burns at facility level, + 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 2022-23**

- Burns clinic frequency improved to run on a weekly basis, with separate child and adult sessions
- Funding approval for paediatric sensory trolley to aid with burns dressings for children (ordered, expected Q1 2023)
- Funding approval for Debritol device for burns debridement
- New burns inpatient care proformas received from printer and introduced onto ward
- Commencement of data input to IBID database again

**Challenges during 2022-23**

- Loss of ward nursing staff with burns experience, and some dressings clinic staff to other roles.
- Access to regular inpatient physio and psychology difficult.

**Forward into 2023-24**

- Reorganisation of psychology services to allow regular inpatient slots for burn patient psychology screening.
- Spincare device in final stages of business case approval for outpatient and inpatient use.
- Increasing training opportunities and collaborative working with Newcastle Burn Centre

### **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](http://www.northern-burncare-network.nhs.uk)

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