



Northern Burn Care Network

# **NORTHERN BURN CARE NETWORK**

**Annual Report  
2023-24**

# 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 Clinical 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 NBCN is one of four clinical networks for specialised burn care in England and Wales. During the 2023/24 financial year, local data sources indicate we had over 7,000 new referrals, of which over 100 cases were for a burn injury larger than 10% of the body surface area. Of these, around 30 cases involved large burn injuries over 40% total body surface area. Unfortunately there has been a delay in the national dataset from the International Burn Injury Database, therefore this report includes a caveat that the data will be updated as soon as the full dataset is available.

## Vision and purpose

The aim of the NBCN is to optimise the provision of care for burn injured patients as defined in the Service Specifications 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 and Yorkshire, North Wales and the Isle of Man.

## Background

The network is hosted by NHS England North West Specialised Commissioning. The network management team is now fully established, after successfully appointing the Network Lead Nurse in August 2023. The network strives to support service delivery and improvement, and to provide quality assurance across all burn services.

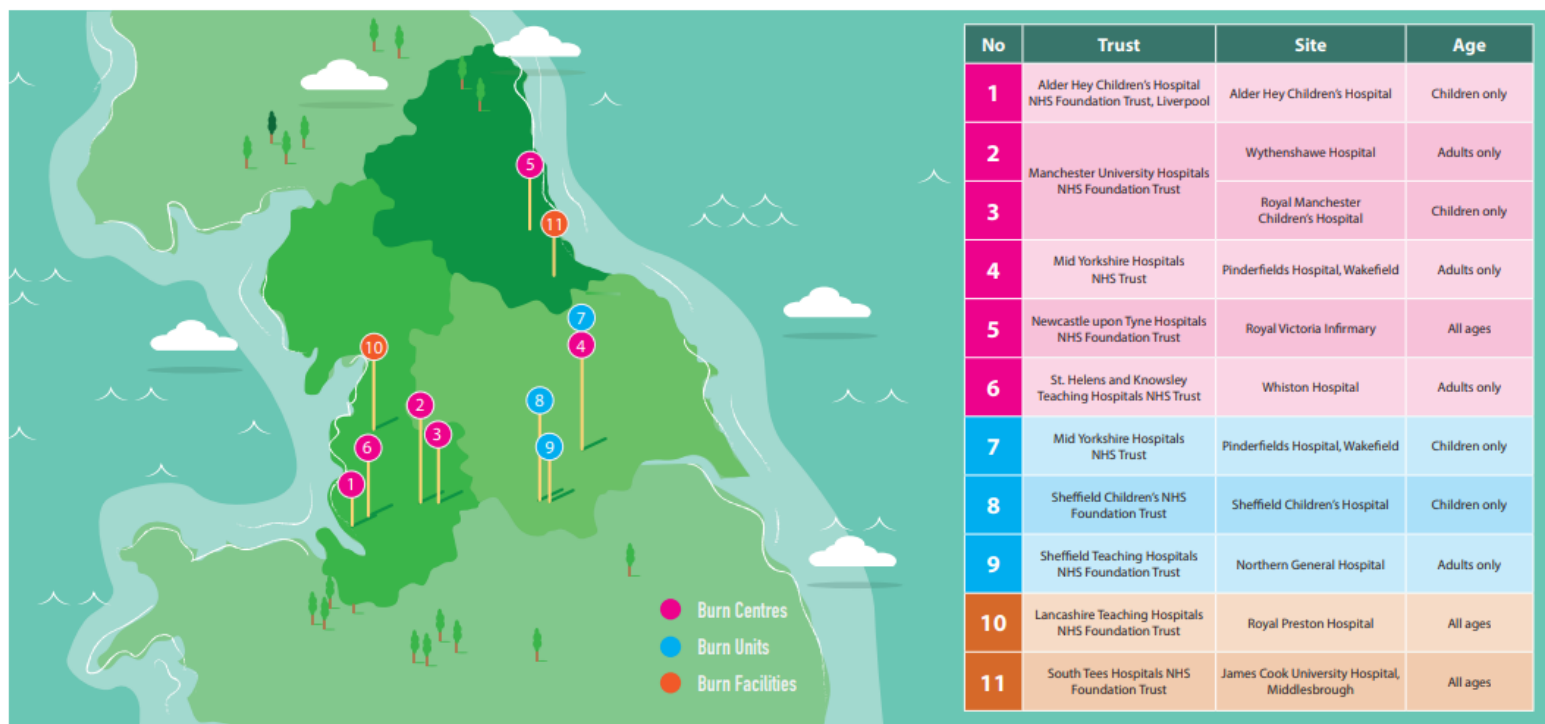
## Challenges

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

## The key objectives for the NBCN are to:

- Minimise accidental burn injuries in collaboration with ICBs
- 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

There are ten hospitals for specialised burns in the network:



## NBCN Clinical Lead's Introduction

“It gives me great pleasure to share our 2023-24 Annual Report for the Northern Burn Care Network. During this year we have continued to make progress in rebuilding the network, and we have laid the foundation for improved collaborative working, including the network-wide Clinical Advisory Group and further quality improvement through self-assessment and peer-review exercise, which will continue in the next year. I would like to celebrate the achievements of the multidisciplinary teams working in burn care services across the network for their dedication and enormous 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.

“The continued success of clinical networks is evident, having been responsible for some significant improvements in the quality of patient care and outcomes. The Northern Burn Care Network is commissioned to optimise the provision of care for burn injured patients, across a large supra-regional footprint. The NBCN is one of four supra-regional burns networks in England and operates at this scale to ensure that high quality care can be provided relatively locally for patients in a way where support is available from a wider network of services able to provide mutual aid to each other at times of activity surge.

This annual report highlights the work undertaken in 2023-24 to continue the work in re-establishing the network; implementing improved governance arrangements; and hosting the first Network improvement event and gaining a true understanding of quality care across the Network. This has led to the development of a more focused work programme for 2024 - 25. NHS England's North West Specialised Commissioning Team is proud to host the Northern Burn Care Network and I would like to thank everyone involved in burn care for their dedication, passion and expertise provided to all burn injured patients across the North of England.”

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.**

## **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**



Joanne has worked in the NHS since 2009 – beginning her career in administration and clinical support, before qualifying as a registered nurse. She has experience of both operational and quality improvement across a range of NHS services, delivering measurable outcomes in improved patient care. She joined the Northern Burn Care Network as Network Manager in November 2022, and immediately began to focus the workplan and objectives to ensure patient care was at the forefront of the Network.

### **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.

### **Jacky Edwards – Lead Nurse**

Jacky joined the Network as Lead Nurse in August 2023. She worked in burns at Manchester since 1987 and was the country's first Consultant Nurse. As part of this role she developed the first Burns Outreach Team and the Manchester Burns Course. Having been the Treasurer of the BBA for a number of years, she then went on to sit on the Burns CRG and laterally Major Trauma and Burns CRG, where she facilitated the development of the CONOPS Burns Annex, the implementation of Burns Incident Response Teams and the Burns Quality Dashboard. Since “retirement” she has continued to attend national burns meetings including the new burn care standards and burns outcomes meetings. She also works part of the week on the National Wound Care Strategy leading on surgical wounds and education and workforce.







### **Mollie Baylon-Jones – Business Support**

Mollie joined the NBCN Team as a Business Support Assistant in June 2023, after she completed an undergraduate placement from 2022-23 with Health Education England. She worked with the Maternity, Neonatal, Children and Young People national team, focusing on access to care in emergency settings for children with additional needs, a cause that has personal significance due to her 5 year old non-verbal brother with autism.

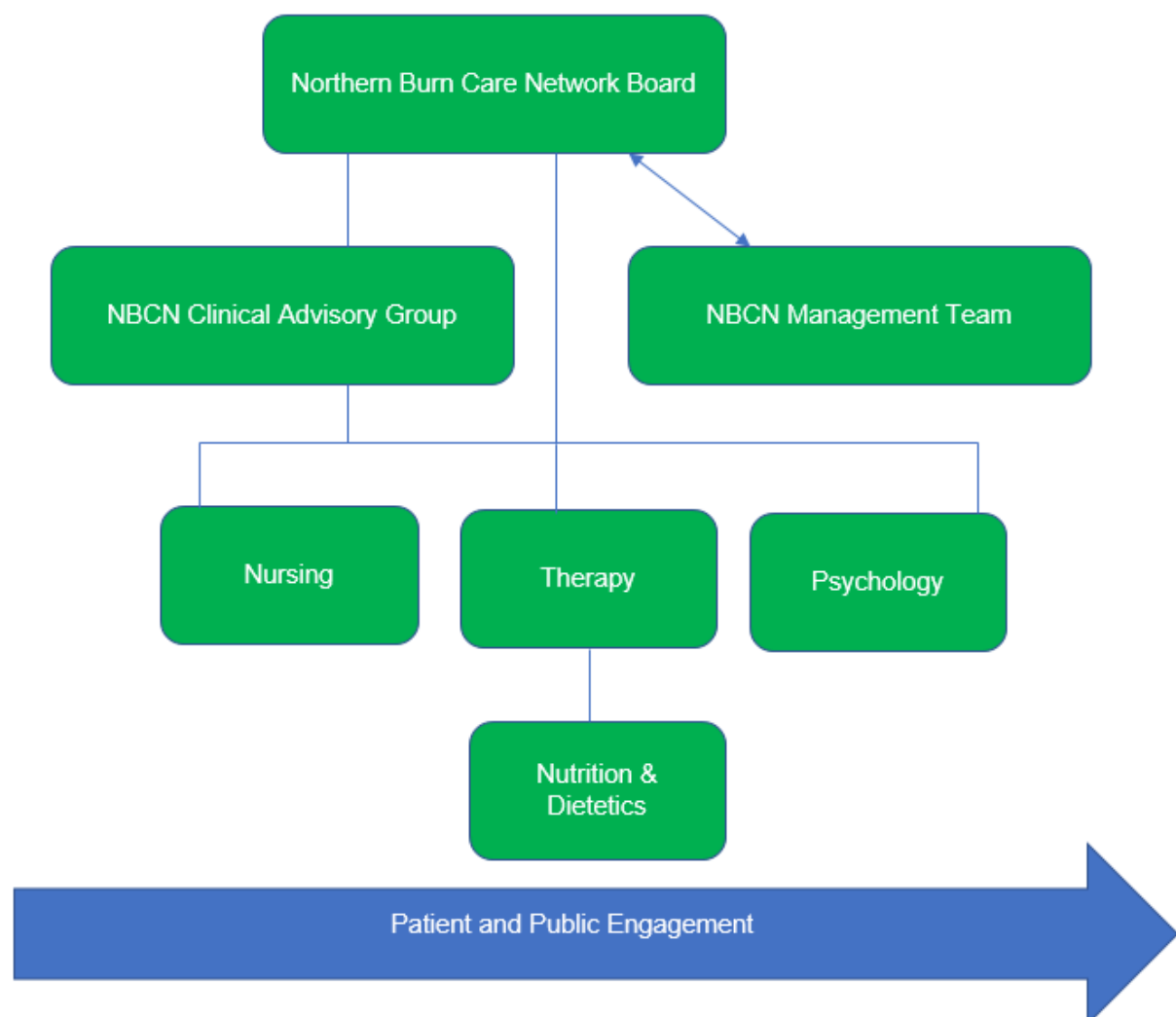
Alongside Mollie's role she is undertaking a BA degree in Business Management with Law, graduating July 2024.

# Network Work Programme and Priorities 2023-24

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 2023-24 was on continuation of re-establishing the network infrastructure and governance arrangements, building compliance with the Network specifications and establishing workstreams to improve patient care.

## Governance

The NBCN has established and now fully implemented the following governance framework:



All the above groups have agreed terms of reference, and are meeting regularly to progress the network work programme. The Clinical Advisory Group commenced in October 2023, and now meets quarterly.

All posts within the Network structure are now fully recruited to, with the sessional agreements for the Clinical Lead, Psychology Lead and AHP Lead extended by one year, to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

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)).

The NBCN has now implemented an NHS Futures communication platform, which is being rolled-out and expanded across all areas of the Network. It is managed by the NBCN Business Support Assistant, with input from the other team members as required.

## **Audit**

It is the responsibility of all Burns Clinical Networks to conduct regular mortality and morbidity audits. Our annual network Regional Mortality Meeting took place on 12 March 2024 and was chaired by Doctor Tridente. This meeting reviewed all mortalities in burns services within the NBCN for the calendar year 2023 and there was excellent representation from across the network. Common themes merging from the cases discussed included:

- Suicide prevention
- Treating patients with full capacity but a poor expected outcome
- Effect of cooling on patient outcome

After discussions, it has been agreed that an in-person event will be held for the 2025 Regional Mortality Meeting.

Six cases were agreed to be presented at the annual National Mortality Meeting (held on 22 April 2024) in Birmingham. It has been agreed that the location for the 2025 National Mortality Meeting will be Manchester, as the Midlands has hosted for 10 years and it should be a rotated event across all four Burns Clinical Networks.

## **Capacity planning and system resilience**

The Network Manager has established relationships with Trauma and Critical Care networks across the North West, the North East & Yorkshire, for both Adult and Paediatric care. Links are provided between all services to discuss surge and escalation and both Trust and Network level.

There is a national workstream within Burns relating to EPRR (see below section for further information).

## National Work

The NBCN is one of four specialised burn care Clinical 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 Clinical 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 and Paediatric Specialised Burn Care Specifications, published in 2023.

NBCN members were well-represented in the review of the British Burn Association standards. The standards were published in June 2023, and peer reviews to assess compliance will now take place regionally.

Network Manager had input into draft Burns Network Specification, published in 2023.

All services took part in the Regional Mortality Meeting, for cases to be agreed and presented at the National Mortality review in 2024-25 (April 2024).

The NBCN is leading on a National Nursing Workforce review, to expand to include all disciplines. This will have a positive impact on services, as currently no Burns Workforce tools to support Burns Workforce.

The NBCN is leading on a Referral Guidance review. Current guidance from 2012, therefore urgent update is required.

The NBCN is participating in the Burns Incident Response Team (BIRT) national review. This review aims to define what is required, and the practicalities of implementation in all Burn Services in England and Wales. There will also be a planned Major Incident Exercise.

# Financial Statement

The annual budget for the network is £170,000. An underspend was carried forward from 2022-23 of £88,644.

This was spent as follows in 2023-24:

Cost	Amount
Costs - pay	£146,880
Costs – non-pay	£13,551
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>£160,431</b>

The network budget was therefore underspent by **£98,213.00**, including the rolled-over underspend from previous years. However, it has been approved to carry over the underspend into 2024-25. Several projects have already been undertaken/agreed:

NBCN Relaunch/Improvement Event (held 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024)

Data Workstream Lead

Prevention Workstream Lead

Peer Review Programme

# Forward into 2024-25

The network team will work to deliver the following priorities during 2024-25:

## 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 British Burn Association Standards (2023).

## Education and Training

- Network Annual Improvement Event
- Education Strategy Development

## Quality

- Review/update/develop network guidelines and protocols as per national burn care standards and specification
- Continue development of patient experience strategy

## Psychological Care

- Develop/approve Network Transition guidance
- Continue to support psychosocial teams in network involvement

## 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

- Continue work to develop Patient Experience Evaluation and other ways of gathering patient experience feedback.

- Contribute to national mortality meeting – to be hosted by Northern Burn Care Network in 2025.
- Contribute to review of national burn care therapy standards
- Contribute to EPRR/BIRT task and finish group
- Lead national review of referral criteria and associated documentation

## Annex 1

# NBCN Service Activity 2023/24

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. 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.*

*There has been a delay in receiving the annual data from the International Burn Injury Database, therefore these figures are sourced from available local data. They are subject to change as full dataset is received.*

ADULTS	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%		503	789	910	TBC	916	TBC	803
	≥10- <40%		22	19	20	TBC	11	TBC	13
	≥40%		6	8	5	TBC	4	YBC	5
	ICU Support req.		TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
	<b>Total Adult Referrals</b>		<b>531</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>821</b>

CHILDREN	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%	644	1315	463	739	TBC	490	TBC	
	≥10- <30%	6	18	4	5	TBC	1	TBC	
	≥30%			1	1	TBC		TBC	
	ICU Support req.	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
	<b>Total Paediatric Referrals</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>TBC</b>	

<b>Total referrals</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>1864</b>	<b>1284</b>	<b>1680</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>1422</b>	<b>TBC</b>	<b>821</b>
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Non-burns SJS-TENS	TBC	TBC	3	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Other non- burns skin loss*	TBC	TBC	0	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

\*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. The Burn Service is one of six services commissioned to deliver Centre-level Care. Our catchment area includes Liverpool, Warrington, Leighton, the Isle of Man and North Wales as far south as Aberystwyth. We treat approximately 550 children and young people per year. 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.

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

#### **Nursing**

- The Burns Ward received a Gold Award in the Trust's annual accreditation process in April 2024.
- We have a low turnover rate of staff, with lower than average sickness rates and 100% compliance with PDRs.
- Our nurses have been successful on the EMSB course, meaning that 55% of nurses now hold this qualification and 23% have successfully completed the Burns Course.
- We have been able to hold several study days of education for the ward staff.

#### **Other staffing**

- We have additional hours for play specialist meaning that the ward is now fully covered during normal working hours.
- We have resolved the funding issues regarding our burn research nurse and this post is now out to advert.

#### **Teaching**

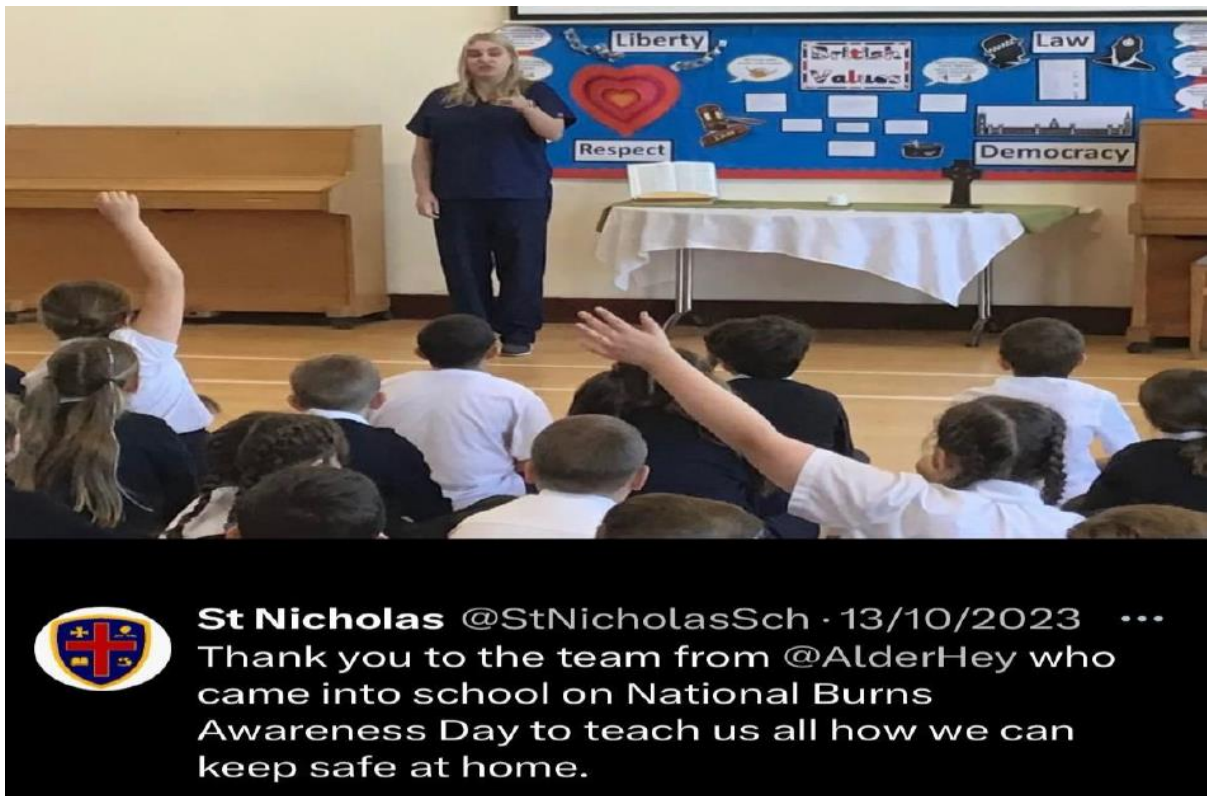
- We organised and ran a successful EMSB course in November 2023.

- Our Lead Consultant has been faculty on the EU's Burns Assessment Team training courses in Holland, teaching teams across Europe about responding to a burn mass casualty event.
- We have continued to provide link nurse teaching to our local emergency departments and walk-in centres.
- Burn awareness day – two of our ward sisters and our burns physiotherapist ran a burns awareness stall within the hospital, providing leaflets and information on first aid and burns dressings, with a big focus on burn prevention. They also gave out first aid magnets and colouring sheets for families with burns advice. They arranged for the fire brigade to attend, and patients, families and staff were able to speak to the firemen and explore the van, helping provide a link for families and patients between the different services.



- **Primary School Teaching**

The two burns sisters also attended a local primary school, they spent the full morning presenting an interactive presentation to year 1-6, providing first aid information, asking questions, understanding the knowledge the children already had, and helping them gain essential burn prevention knowledge. They also gave out little burn prevention packs for each child which contained, burn prevention leaflets, colouring in sheets around burns first aid, magnets with first aid on, stickers and a small dressing for them to know what the unit use. They also provided reception age children with burn prevention packs which contained burn specific story books for the classes to read.



### **Collaboration**

- Multiple members of our MDT have regularly joined the new national paediatric burns MDT.
- We continue to collaborate with RMCH in providing mutual aid

### **Challenges during 2023-24**

- Service capacity has been impacted by reduced consultant cover; since Oct 22 we have not been able to admit burns > 20% TBSA.
- We face challenges meeting national paediatric burn specification recommendations that paediatric burn providers should have practical involvement in adult burn care

- Still some long waits for laser treatment of burn scars for children who need a general anaesthetic.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

- Received positive patient feedback. Some examples below:

*“I can honestly say that my son received the best care imaginable, he got treated with respect and dignity by all members of staff. As parents we also got treated with dignity. Burns unit staff and orthopaedic team all need one very big pat on the back. Thank you does not cut it really but thank you!!!! “*

- Several children attended Burns Camp in July 23 and the family weekend.

### **Research Activity**

- Members in BBA Research special interest group.
- Lead Consultant is part of an NIHR (£3.4M) grant Improving Burn Care in Pakistan (2021-2025)
- Steering committee representations on Prioritising Global Burns Research, Bristol University and James Lind Alliance
- P Beazley NIHR research internship researching “Effectiveness of thermal imaging in children’s burns”
- Part of task and finish group looking at findings and recommendations of CEMBIC
- BBA 2023 - poster on psychosocial teaching in West Bank/Gaza and burn capacity building (won best poster)

### **Forward into 2024-25**

- We have appointed a new (locum) consultant to start end of August 2024.
- Continue working with Manchester burns services for better future collaboration including potential cross-site working
- Funding approved and job advert out for burn research nurse
- We are hoping to develop hair transplantation and microneedling services for children .

## **Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)**

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

The burn 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 is at the Royal Preston site. Hospitals in our region include:

Furness General, Barrow

Westmoreland General Hospital, Kendal

Royal Lancaster Infirmary

The Royal Blackburn Hospital

Burnley General Teaching Hospital

Blackpool Victoria Hospital

For Adults we have a mixed ward of 22 beds for burns and plastic surgery.

The facility has a 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 and Plastics Therapy team hold and inpatient and outpatient caseload promoting a smooth transition from inpatients to outpatients which include physiotherapy and scar therapy. There is access to a cosmetic camouflage service.

We also have a Trust Clinical Psychology service for both inpatient and outpatient clients.

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

- Band 6 specialist Burns nurse Recruited July 2023 full time post.
- Band 6 specialist OT commenced in post August 2023 (19 hours).
- Over the past 12 months we have worked with our colleagues in Manchester to hopefully make the referral process more streamline.
- ACP for burns and plastics has now completed year 2 of the training with Cumbria University with 1 further year to complete.
- Lead physiotherapist is attending an online scar therapy course (35 hours).
- Funding received from the network for a 3D camera currently still going through the medical illustration configurations. A Moleculight Camera also obtained and to go through medical illustration.
- Burns clinic capacity increasing due to having new specialist nurse in post.
- Relaunch of the network – providing all teams with regular meetings to discuss enhancing and improving services.



- 1 staff member has completed the Burns Rehabilitation module, and our band 6 physiotherapy has just commenced this course.
- Education provided at the Tissue Viability study day for all link nurses by our ACP Burns and Plastics.
- ACP Burns and plastics has been attending the national prems working group.
- Therapy assistant commenced 2 weeks ago- this post is part of the therapy establishment and is not a new post- it has been vacant since sporadically since June 2023.
- We have started to work through staff burn competencies.

### Challenges during 2023-24

- ACP Burns and Plastics still in training so not always available to make reviews.
- No specific OT hours allocated to Burns and Plastics outpatient service- outpatient splinting supported by experienced hand therapy team.
- There is currently no Cosmetic Camouflage service . Some patients have been referred onto changing faces.
- Repatriation of patients and funding – currently being reviewed with the Burns network.
- Therapy Area- lack of appropriate space to treat patients- limited access to multipurpose treatment room. Abbey stead room- multi functional – sewing/garment construction/admin.
- IBID – Burns clerk required further training to look at the quarterly reports and actions. This was provided.
- Time to surgery – Issues with time to surgery due to the ward being mixed ward. Audits have been completed and a further discussion has taken place with our clinical governance teams.  
We are escalating as a burns team to individual consultants if there are any delays.
- Currently we have no outreach service – We have been informed to start looking at this as a service, but this will be in the primary stages and will require stakeholders to look at aspects of staffing and funding.
- Education – staff attending EMSB- limited places and distance for staff to attend.

### Patient experience and feedback

- Trainee ACP involved in the patient experience evaluation national working group.
- Therapy team collect friends and family feedback.
- Friends and family feedback for inpatients.

### Research and Audit

- Silver 2 research study commenced.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle Audit of time to surgery completed.

- Ongoing time to heal audit.
- Benchmarking/audit for outpatients between regional centre and burn facility with the network.

#### Forward into 2023-24

- Cosmetic camouflage service – Therapy team will be sending a team member for training and the burns specialist nurse will also be attending to enable us to provide this service.
- Laser Therapy service – Mr Ekwobi looking at our current laser service.
- Clinical Psychology – Requirements to look like inpatient psychosocial screening and possible return to Burns MDT.
- MDT – capacity to run this service weekly although currently not all team members could provide a weekly service.
- Patient feedback burns specific – to continue working with the national network group.
- Staff capabilities- to work with the network to ensure staff capabilities are completed.
- Education- staff education required to continue 1-1 within burns clinics. ACP burns and plastics to be involved with the nurses educational working group.
- Policies and procedures – work in progress need time to physically amend.
- Network/stakeholders – monthly meetings to view funding and the service developments.
- Outreach- primarily stages to look at this as a future service.
- ACP burns and plastics training will be completed March 2025.



## **Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Centre)**

*Clinical Lead: Ms Sam McNally, Consultant Lead, Manchester Burns Service*

The Manchester Adult Burn Centre is located at Wythenshawe Hospital which is part of Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The 12 bedded unit comprises 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.

The burns outreach service is nurse led and 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 providing outreach visits for advice and assessments.

The Manchester paediatric burns centre is located within Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH). RMCH is one of the largest children's hospital in Europe. The 12 bedded unit comprises 8 cubicles and a 4 bedded 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 (BPAC) delivering outpatient follow up and ambulatory care for smaller burns.

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

- Burns study days – The adult service have developed study days to support staff as they commence in the service. With support of the practice based educators and experienced staff the service has created resources to enable those who attend the sessions which reflect the Northern Burn Care Network Competencies to develop their knowledge and practical skills when working within the specialty. It was initially developed for new starters but this has evolved to include all staff as a refresher.
- Northern Burn Care Network Relaunch (Leeds) – staff from across the MDT represented Manchester Burn Centre learning about new developments across the network.
- Visits by therapy dogs for suitable patients – this has taken place within the adult service and has boosted morale and has had a calming effect on patients.
- Christmas carol singing by the MFT choir.
- Burns Awareness Day October 2023 – Activities focused on the prevention of burns and promoting safety and first aid. Both adult and paediatric services had a stall and display and the event was promoted internally within the Trust and externally via social media.

- Staff Well Being – The adult service participated in a Halloween hamper where staff donated goodies and names were placed into witches hats for a share of the prize.
- Manchester Burn Centre Away Day 2023 – Staff from across the Manchester Burns Centre, along with staff from external Trusts and agencies such as NWS and the Northern Burn Care Network, attended the Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Centre in Bury for a full day. The purpose was to share updates and knowledge of developments within the service and nationally as well as network and connect with staff working in MFT and beyond.
- Funding from the Northern Burn Care Network to use a VR headset in practice within the adult service and a SOP is in development. The use of the headset during dressing and therapy sessions has reduced anxiety and stress during these procedures.
- Continuing to build relationships with external charity and partners to support burn patients – Katie Piper, Dans Fund, SAFFA for veterans, British Legion.
- The adult service has embarked on a programme of service transformation focusing on 4 areas which are; outpatients, non icu burn, icu burn and burns theatre. These workshops have given staff from across the MDT the opportunity to come together to review and redesign clinical pathways, identifying challenges and potential opportunities.
- Over the past year 8 staff at RMCH have successfully completed the EMSB with 4 more booked for this summer. 2 staff have achieved the Professional Nurse Advocate course, 2 staff attended the BBA conference last summer in Dublin, 2 staff have completed Burns Course modules in the last year with 2 currently undertaking the Rehab module now and 2 undertaking the Acute Burn Care module in the Autumn.
- A sensory room at RMCH, funded by the Northern Burn Care Network, was completed in March 2024 and is in use for therapeutic sessions which are extremely beneficial for our patients.
- New data coordinator at Wythenshawe – commenced in post last year and with support from the IBID national lead coordinator/RMCH has become quickly established in the role. The department now receive quarterly reports to provide insight into good practice and where we can improve when complete dependencies and new starters are provided with training to ensure our data in IBID is robust as possible.
- The burns service have undergone multiple workshops to improve and support joined up patient care within the adult service. These have been facilitated by the trust's transformation team.

## Challenges during 2023-24

- The adult service has had 13 new starters over 6 months. This has been a mix of RNs and Nursing assistants which has been a huge challenge to integrate into the service, alongside medical, nursing and AHP students. The educational sessions has helped with the number of new starters.
- Recruitment and retention remain a challenge especially with the adult ICU nursing team. To ensure a more robust staffing model the Burns ICU is being transferred to be managed by the Acute ICU team at Wythenshawe to ensure the beds remain open with a robust staffing model.
- Development of skills within the team at Wythenshawe for the burns theatre has been a challenge. This has been supported by clinical educator staff that have attended Theatre induction days for scrub and circulating staff. A rotation of staff via theatre has allowed staff to develop scrub and circulating skills to boost the number of staff able to work within this area.
- The up coming peer review has been approached by working as an MDT to collate evidence to support the Burns Standards 2023 and ensure we are working towards compliance for the upcoming peer review.
- Whilst RMCH are staffed at establishment for the ward, staff are sometimes moved to relieve pressure on other areas of the hospital in particular during winter when overall capacity is extremely challenged. This has led to low staff morale and anxiety and concerns over where they could be moved to. Within RMCH beds are not ring fenced on the burns unit, due to bed pressures throughout the hospital, which has on occasion led to delays in patients being transferred or admissions having to be refused.
- Demand for BPAC outstripping capacity and impacting on patient flow. Possible solutions are being explored by the senior leadership team including reviewing the establishment and working hours of the service.

## Patient experience and feedback

- Between April 2023 and March 2024 feedback via the “Friends and Family Test” was positive with scores ranging between 95% and 98% satisfaction.
- Comments and feedback from patients included:
  - “Just simply excellent in delivering an amazing atmosphere to recover from injury. Very clean and hygienic. They do a tremendous job in looking after patients and each other. Full of empathy, warmth and love to care which I feel is awesome as I find this comforting which is imperative for patients.”
  - “The nurse was lovely and very polite. When taking my bloods it didn’t hurt and she explained there would be a sharp scratch and waited until I was ready to take my blood.”
  - “Very accommodating to my individual needs. Staff are the best – caring, kind and just lovely.”
  - “Pleasant staff, good expectations given and caring.”

- “Care has been very good and I felt respected as a person. The professionalism of staff has been wonderful.”
- “The service I received whilst on the burns unit was impeccable, all of the staff are lovely.”
- RMCH were featured in local and national news for the treatment of a 15 year old boy from Bolton. The patient was playing with his friends when a container of flammable liquid caught fire covering him in flames and resulting in severe burns across 60 per cent of his body. The patient faced an initial 13 hour surgery followed by eight months of further surgeries which, at one time, were occurring as frequently as every other day. In the immediate aftermath of the injury the patient jumped into a nearby stream infecting his wounds in the process and complicating his recovery. Skin grafts could only be obtained from the patients chest and back as everything from his elbows down was burnt. The patient was treated using innovative treatments including the ‘Biodegradable Temporising Matrix’ (BTM) which is a foam based skin substitute. The patient remained an inpatient from May 2022 to January 2023 and still attends the pressure clinic in BPAC.

## Research and Audit

The burns service is supported by a research fellow:

- Audit which took place in 23/24 include:
  - Clinical audit on documentation of capacity assessment among burn patients treated in Wythenshawe Adult Burn Centre
  - Auditing LDI utilisation in the Paediatric Burn Centre
- Current audits being undertaken across the Manchester Burn Centre include:
  - Service evaluation of the use of BTM in burn patients (across both adults and paed)s)
  - Service evaluation of management of paediatric patients with burns less than 10% TBSA
  - Service evaluation of management of skin graft donor sites in children with burns
  - Service evaluation of management of paediatric patients with SJS/TENS
  - Improvements for HIVE
  - Monitoring communication with GPs for long term patients
  - Audit of capacity assessment within the burns service
  - Product evaluation of new wound assessment tool
  - Ongoing recruitment to oasis multicentre trial
  - Involvement in the Abucus prospective multicentre study looking at blood biomarkers relating to trauma
  - Multidisciplinary burns teaching takes place weekly

- A journal club takes place monthly
- Two abstracts were submitted for the upcoming ISBI conference in August:
  - Cold burn injuries from laughing gas canisters: a rising trend of a preventable burn injury
  - Revisiting the use of Alexander sandwiched graft technique in management of major burn injuries: When, how and why?

### **Forward into 2024-25**

- To continue the service transformation replicating the process which has been undertaken in the adult service within the paediatric service at RMCH.
- Approval has been granted for an activity coordinator role at Wythenshawe for long stay patients with challenging behaviours which may have resulted from a long hospital stay. The aim of the role is to provide meaningful activities for this cohort of patients.
- Wythenshawe are working with the psychology team to provide 2 or 3 sessions each year. These sessions will support the development of skills, raise awareness of the need of skills to support patients journey and recovery with regards to psychology.
- Relocation of outreach service at Wythenshawe and development of BPAC at RMCH.

## **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 2023-24**

#### **Awards:**

- Scar Free Foundation/British Burn Association Elective award for ingoing research on scar maturation timelines, Awarded to Sabrina Poppy Barnes, Final Year Medical Student, supervised by Preetha Muthayya
- MD awarded to Kirsty Smith by Bradford University for research, titled "Machine Learning for improving total burn surface, area estimation", supervised by Umair Anwar
- Team of the Week Award to The Adult Burns Service for organising a cinema trip for a long-term patient
- ENT UK British Society for Facial Plastic Surgery National Meeting- Best Oral Presentation prize awarded to Dr Eshwar Ganapathy, for project titled Ear Burns, supervised by Orla Austin

#### **Service expansion:**

- Appointment of 2 substantive Burn Consultants, Miss Ciara Bowers and Mr Alexander Whittam following interviews in December 2023
- Appointment of 2 full time administrative Burn Roles, covering adult and paediatric service.
- New outreach nurse starting in June 2023
- New Nursing Assistant post for clinic to start in June 2023

#### **Education:**

The MDT continue active involvement in education, teaching and training programs

- Burn Care Nurse Advisors continue to do regular teaching sessions to regional Emergency Departments area, mixture of both online and face to face with sessions being booked months in advance.
- UK Trauma day, National meeting, lectures delivered by Alan Phipps and Brendan Sloan, March 2023
- National Registrar Training session on acute burns, Organised by Pinderfields Burn Unit, conducted by Preetha Muthayya, Ciara Bowers, Andrew Carter, Brendan Sloan, June 2023
- Yorkshire Regional Teaching for Dermatology Registrars, lecture on Blistering skin conditions, delivered by Ciara Bowers November 2023
- The Yorkshire and Humber regional board, Royal College of emergency Medicine, Faculty of emergency nurses, learning and networking event, Lectures delivered by Ciara Bowers, Brendan Sloan June 2023
- Continuing contribution to the Mid Yorkshire Plastic Surgery Courses, Ciara Bowers, Alan Phipps, Preetha Muthayya
- Use of pressure garments and pressure therapy in for burns scars and acute burns- Interactive online Teaching session conducted by Occupation Therapy Team from Western Australian Burn Service at Perth, with participation from teams from Birmingham Burn Service and Pinderfields Burns Service
- National Pressure Garment Interest group meeting, hosted by the Pinderfields Occupational Therapy team.
- Burns- Lecture by Orla Austin at Ruth Horse Academy in Leeds for teachers and trainers

#### **Television:**

- BBC Morning Live interview, Ciara Bowers along with a burn survivor treated at Pinderfields
- BBC Radio Leeds, interview with Ciara Bowers
- ITV Look North, interview with Ciara Bowers

All 3 programs focussed on fire awareness, safety and prevention, to coincide with Halloween, Firework Night and Diwali.

#### **Achievements:**

- Considerable MDT effort to organise a cinema trip for a long term inpatient



- New on-site Skin freezer to enable storage of allograft on site. This will not only improve access to allograft, but also reduce transport costs, reduce wastage.
- Procurement of new Virtual Reality Head set from funds awarded by NBCN.
- Trial use of Kerecis (Icelandic cod derivative) on a complex patient.
- Trial use of topical concentrated oxygen therapy TWO2 on a complex patient.
- Nurse Led Assessment to commence May/June
- Joint competencies in Burn therapy. Static PTs competent to assess scars in video appointments.

### **Update on action plans:**

Action: Consultant Surgeon, therapy, nursing, psychology expansion - compliance with national burn care standards

Update: Appointed to consultant and administrative posts. Ongoing work on expansion of therapy, psychology posts

Action: Ambulatory Burn Care Unit development

Update: Ongoing work.

Action: Resume EMSB training for nurses - compliance with national burn care Standards

Update: Number of nurses have completed EMSB in 2023, 2024 and a member of staff to book onto instructor course1 nurse presently on the Manchester burns course.

Action: Development of Core Burn Theatre Team

Update: Completed

Action: Consultant Burn Surgeon weekend cover and consistent out of hours cover - compliance with national burn care standards

Update: Partially completed, Due to go into 1 in 6 on call in October 2024

Action: Burns dietitian post-compliance with national burn care standards

Update: Ongoing work.

Action- Research - Improve research profile with increased MDT involvement

Update: Achieved and ongoing work.

### **Research Update:**

Oral and Poster presentations at National and International meetings

“Cutaneous manifestations of candida parapsilosis in burns patients: A novel pathognomonic clinical sign for the burn surgeon to look out for”- Asif Murtaza, Umair Anwar, Preetha Muthayya, EBA meeting September 2023



The prognostic role of frailty scoring in assessing patients with Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. Matthew Stone, B Sloan, R Sandhu, Preetha Muthayya, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

Experience with a Biosynthetic Cellulose Dressing (Epiprotect®) At a Regional Paediatric Burns Unit, Omar Abbassi, Umair Anwar, Preetha Muthayya, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

Are hot water bottle burn injuries on the rise? A single burn unit's experience. Steph Rayner, Marie Joney Young, Kevin Rattray, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

Changing spectrum of admissions in paediatric burn service, Brebdan Sloan, Preetha Muthayya, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

Patient evaluation of the use of hydrotherapy in healed burns patients in a UK adult burns service, Imogen Lee, An Sanderson, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

The cost of keeping warm: The impact of the domestic energy crisis on referrals to a tertiary burns centre, Josh Totty, Alan Phipps, O Austin, Umair Anwar, Preetha Muthayya, BBA meeting Dublin, June 2023

Analysis of outcomes in ear burns- Eashwar Ganapathy, Orla Austin, ENT UK national meeting

### **Publications:**

Efficacy of Massage Techniques for Hypertrophic Burn Scars - A Systematic Review of Literature, Sabrina Poppy Barnes, Yangmyung Ma, Bijendra Patel, Preetha Muthayya, J Burn Care Res. 2024 Mar 4;45(2):356-365

A comparison of the epidemiology of isolated and non-isolated hand burns. Dargan D, Himmi G, Anwar U, Jivan S, Muthayya P. Burns. 2023 Jun;49(4):951-960. Burns. 2024 Feb;50(1):123-131. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2023.06.012. Epub 2023 Jul 7.

The use of NexoBrid™ enzymatic debridement and coagulation abnormalities Burns. 2024 Feb;50(1):123-131. doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2023.06.012 Helen Capitelli-McMahon, Susan McCrossan, Jonathan Kershaw, Preetha Muthayya, Mohammad Umair Anwar, Andrew Carter, Brendan Sloan

Assaults by Scalding in British Prisons. Stone MJ, **Sharaf A**, Jivan S. J Correct Health Care. 2023 Aug;29(4):258-261

### **Acknowledgement for involvement in the re energise trial**

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.

## Challenges during 2022-23

- Obituary

It is with great sadness and sympathy that we wish to inform you of the death of our Matron Jan Newton on 19 March 2023. Jan took over as Matron for Burns and Plastic Surgery in 2019 after a long career in Critical Care. She was a huge support to our service and her wisdom and experience helped the service navigate through covid and the recovery period. She will be missed by all who knew her.

- Caring for a complex patient.

Increasing number of patients with high level of complexities and increasing needs places a huge strain on the service , especially the therapy and nursing teams

- Infrastructure

With increasing activity, complexity of patients , the service has outgrown it's current capacity. Urgent expansion of bed numbers clinic room and ambulatory care space is needed

- Staffing

Operating Department Practitioner shortage

Pinderfields have always maintained a successful model of General anaesthetic sedations performed in the ward sedation dressing rooms, with Consultant Anaesthetist and ODP and retaining allocated theatre sessions for surgical procedures. Due to a trust shortage of ODP numbers, this process is increasingly difficult, and this is compounded by lack of theatre capacity to accommodate the sedation dressings on burn theatre sessions.

Vital need to increase in occupational therapy, Physiotherapy, paediatric psychology, burns dietitian and play therapy, due to challenges in delivering service consistent with previous high levels.

- Planned ICU due to move to decant ward for ventilation works. This was due to take place in April 2023, but has been delayed.

## Patient experience and feedback

Both the adult and paediatric service consistently get good feedback from patients. Sample of comments from March 2024 Friends & Family test

Excellent all round care. Staff fully informative and fully communicated throughout. All staff lovely.

Staff was very caring and good explaining.

All good care at my outpatient appoint - (name removed)the ward manager on the Burns Ward was amazing.

Very quick and helpful.

Very efficient, (name removed) was very nice and caring.

Excellent care by all staff over the weeks I've been here, all fantastic thank you!

Excellent care.

(names removed)all gave great care.

Everything! Lovely staff (name removed) helpful friendly and reassuring.

Love the NHS lovely and caring.

Super lovely, speedy, lots of information & guidance and made me feel very comfortable - thank you!

The staff was amazing.

The doctor (name removed) spent his time explaining. But all credit to (name removed), she was amazing and made my mum feel better and answered all questionsand concerns brilliantly.

Staff attitudes, clear explanations questions answered - all staff friendly - reassuring.

The nurses were really kind and caring - really patient and understanding.

All staff are very friendly and helpful, very kind and supportive. Everything explained very well and thorough. Wonderful staff and doctors.

(name removed) very knowledgeable, great care, thank you!

(name removed) was exceptional, professional and knowledgeable.

High competence, steril staff, good advice.

Amazing care, couldn't do enough. No waiting.

Staff good. Hospital?

Always go above and beyond. All staff are amazing.

Well looked after, very friendly, good laugh. Brilliant at what they do.

All very good. (name removed)

Great.

Good care at my assessment - explained everything to me very well.

All staff are caring was a nice experience.

Friendly, always smiling.

Very friendly staff professional & knowledgeable made sure I was comfortable throughout my dressing.

Fast professional friendly staff.

Punctuality, staff professionalism, staff care and attention.

Everyone is very caring and helpful, I can't thank everyone enough.

Great care. Well timed.

All of them.

Professional.

## Forward into 2024-25

1. Expansion of current initiative to expand range of competencies on therapy
2. Service expansion, with focus on therapy, paediatric psychology, dietetics
3. Establish 1 in 6 burn specific consultant rota
4. Time out day for Burn Service
5. Infrastructure development- Ambulatory care service, Laser

6. Continue research development
7. To develop Friday MDT teaching session with Burns Service in Birmingham

## 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:*

*463 Patients <10% TBSA; 4 Patients 10%-30% TBSA; 1 Patient >30% TBSA*

#### *Adult Burns Centre:*

*789 Patients <10% TBSA; 19 Patients 10%-40% TBSA; 8 Patients >40% TBSA*

*The above figures were presented at the Regional and National Burns Audit covering the period 01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023*

*'Once in a career' spike in major burn activity ; with 6 major burn injury patients admitted over a 5 day period during a particularly challenging busy period covering May and June 2023. This was presented and discussed at the Network relaunch event.*

## Staffing Changes

### W37: Adult Burns Centre

- Health care Assistant Amy Cooke appointed.
- Band 4 Nurse Associate post created and Ann-Marie Walker successfully appointed to training.
- Band 5 Nurse Appointments: - Danielle Chapman, Nicola Cannell and Erin Armstrong.
- International Nurse Appointment Jan-Paul Salcedo.
- Band 6 Sister secondment – Georgia Sheldon.
- Band 7 Outreach Nurse secondment Emma Walker.
- Band 7 Senior Charge Nurse Retirement succession planning.
- Band 7 Senior Sister Appointment Sophie Robson.
- Appointment of Zoe Gotts into Lifespan Clinical Psychology post
- Appointment of Emma Hodgkinson into Consultant Clinical Psychology post

## Ward 11: Paediatric Burns Centre

- Appointment of 4 newly qualified band 5 nurse
- Return of 2 band 5 from maternity
- 2 staff gone on maternity
- Appointment of TNA (trainee Nurse Associate)
- Return of Danielle Cross (Clinical Psychologist) from maternity leave

## 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

## Adherence to burn care and other clinical standards

The service completed the Northern Burn Care Network's self-assessment process ahead of peer review visits in June 2024.

## Highlights of 2023-24.

### **Service development**

#### **Nursing**

- *Large scale quality improvement project to trial, audit and implement a ward based trauma clinic for burn referrals, with the scope to extend to all burn outpatients.*
- *Trial of Artificial intelligence camera to assess burn injuries.*

#### **Psychology**

- The adult clinical psychology team have secured funding for EMDR training so that this can be offered to burns patients as an alternative therapeutic modality.

#### **Therapy**

- The Burns therapy team remain an integrated part of the MDT, attending ward rounds, MDTs meetings and work alongside the Clinical therapy leads for ongoing peer support and supervision. The staffing for Physio: 1 WTE Band 6 and 1WTE Band 3 technical Instructor across both Inpatient Adults and Paediatrics. Outpatients are managed by the wider Burns and Plastic team under the supervision of the Burns Physio Clinical lead.
- The staffing for OT: 1 WTE Adults Burns, Plastic and Surgery, supported by Clinical Lead OT

It has been a busy time with a surge of activity for the Burns service which the therapists managed but knowing a structure to increase demand for the service could be implemented if necessary ( i.e. support for over time , extra staffing). The clinical leads adjust their roles and responsibilities to support the acute nature of therapy on the wards.

## **Outreach**

- Supports the continuing care of our burn's patients.
- BORT part of scar review team and deliver clinics.
- Adult Burns Outreach Sister returned from maternity leave.
- A secondment opportunity was given like for like to a full-time band 7 for 1 year.
- Outreach physiotherapist – partial retirement with view of succession planning for the future.
- Moved office.
- Voice of customer (worked with Pressure Garment Company to develop innovations in pressure therapy. Ongoing)
- Establish supervision sessions from Psychology colleague (reflective practice)
- Staff attended BBA
- Support teaching on Burns and Plastic Course locally/ Registrars/community staff
- Provided supervisor role for Manchester Burns Course
- Supported ward staff during surge of burn care activity.
- Establish links with regional TVN mental health services, utilising correct referral guidelines managing patients right place right time
- Staff are now supported with time back for family therapy weekends and burn camps.
- Support the learning and developments of students

## **Challenges for the Outreach service**

- Referrals for laser from outside the area has had impact on capacity with scar review clinic
- Demands on service due to case load following on from major incident.
- Less capacity in scar service provision whilst upskilling staff maternity cover
- Industrial action, covering colleagues.
- No provision for service cover when on leave / unplanned absences.

## **Network Activities**

- Attendance and engagement with lead nurse meetings and the network relaunch.
- Continued attendance and participation at NBCN meetings virtually.
- A number of team members attended the Northern Burn Care Network Relaunch event in March 2024; presenting on the use of spincare in the paediatric service and reflections on the surge in activity in the adult service in May/June 2023.

## **National and International Activities**

- Therapists attended regional and National M&M
- Ongoing collaboration and support of burn care in Tanzania with Bright Northumbria Charity with attendance of three burns team members to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre November 2023
- *Continued support of staff travelling to Tanzania to enrich their burn service now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year – another successful trip.*
- *Succession planning in place to continue this service when nurse leading the project retires.*

### **Prevention and Awareness**

- Participation in burns awareness day, providing an interactive information stand for staff and visitors in the hospital grounds to raise awareness of burns prevention and first aid. Participation from adults and paediatrics as well as attendance from the local fire brigade.

### **Awards**

- CJ Lewis – Best oral burns research presentation. Australian and New Zealand Burn Association
- *The Grafters Club*

### **Research and Audit**

#### Research:

Combination laser impact on burn scar outcome (CLIPSO) trial recruitment, Royal College of Surgeons grant

Biatain Fiber Ag trial, CJ Lewis Principal Investigator for United Kingdom

ELABS trial recruitment

First UK burn centre to evaluate Deepview AI device

#### Presentations

Carbon dioxide laser treatment of burn-related scarring: Results of the ELIPSE prospective randomised controlled trial. *BAPRAS Congress 2023 & ANZBA 2023 Meeting*

A very unusual burns complication: Bilateral endogenous bacterial endophthalmitis. *British Burn Association 2023 poster presentation, Dublin*

An epidemiological study of elderly burns patients. *British Burn Association 2023 poster presentation, Dublin*



A review of first aid documentation and accuracy of burns size estimation in referrals to a regional burn centre. *British Burn Association 2023 poster presentation, Dublin*

Shepherd L., Sirois F., Harcourt D., Norman P., Aaron D., Adkins K., Cartwright A., **Hodgkinson E.L.**, Murphy N., Thompson A. (2023). The Roles of Psychological Flexibility and Self-Compassion in Appearance Distress Following Burn Injuries: A Multi-Centre Cohort Study. *British Burn Association Conference presentation.*

Challenges in the First 24 hours with Major Burn Injury . S Varma  
National Trauma Care Conference . Yarnfield Park, March 2024

#### Publications:

**Hodgkinson E.L.**, McKenzie A., Johnson L. (2023). Evaluating the impact of a Paediatric Burn Club for Children and Families Using Group Concept Mapping. *Eur Burn J* 4(2), 211-220.

#### **Teaching and Training**

Nursing support for EMSB, facilitation of new instructors and coordinators from within the service.

Annual Burns and plastics course with attendance from new burns staff nurses and external candidates. 4 x Burns Simulation programmes per year with attendance from within burns service and those linked A+E staff etc., Network programme of education for paramedics and Fire Service.

Delivery of burns education programme to regional primary care and acute services. Links with regional A+Es, WIC's etc to deliver continual education and practice updates for both nursing and medical staff.

Continual development of ward staff to ensure compliance with burn care competencies

ESB Course host January 2024

OT and Physio attended BBA with the OT presenting a poster.

A number of therapy staff attended North East Regional Plastic Surgery Meeting, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle. March 2024.

Therapists attended LEO course (leading an empowered organisation)

National Therapy:

Therapist attended the national therapy meeting.

Therapist attended annual Royal College of OT conference.

Therapist has introduced the concept of use of sensory normalisation to improve the patient experience of those patients presenting with Delirium and Dementia completing a poster presentation at BBA Dublin 2023. This was presented to the NBCN meeting which were both well received and conducting a pilot on the adult burns ward receiving positive feedback.

OT Lisa Slack has demonstrated the benefits of increased therapy resource in the form of an OT technical instructor for our burn's rehabilitation patients through completion of an audit and patient feedback questionnaire.

The therapy team have participated in the blind assessing in the laser research.

Therapists are active members of the Burns Service meetings, including forthcoming strategy day

## **Patient experience and feedback**

### **Comments from cards received on Ward 37:**

"To all the wonderful Staff on ward 37 – my heartfelt thanks for all your care and kindness shown to me on my recent admission. I was able to relax and take it easy and start healing – my love to you all X."

"Thank you for everything you have all done for me, I mean it when I say I could not have done it without you"

"To all our wonderful NHS burns staff. All you lovely, amazing staff, including the cleaners. I cannot express how grateful I am for taking care of me and a heartfelt thank you for allowing my family to stay with me."

### **Comments from cards received on Ward 11-**

"Everybody was very efficient and caring. The hospital was extremely busy but we still received first class care".

"Staff dedication is amazing, they saved my son's life and nursed him back to himself".

"I personally appreciate all the services and hard work's these people do for us"

"The nurses and HCA's were brilliant with me and [name removed], and we felt so looked after on ward 11".

"Staff friendly, on hand all time and did exactly what was needed"

## **Forward into 2024-25**

### *Staffing*

*Retirement of current Band 7 Senior Charge nurse and the successful recruitment of Band 7 Senior Sister. Overlap employment negotiated with line management to ensure seamless transition.*

Plans are in being made for succession planning within Physiotherapy for Lead Physiotherapist retirement.

Burns OT service to be placed on trust risk register for lack of OT staffing.

### *Innovation*

It is hoped that the service will be able to develop IPC-approved protocols to implement virtual reality for pain and anxiety management on the adult ward.

Service review of capacity within scar clinic

Seek formal Patient feedback

LPG : new treatment modality ,Upskill staff and implement into service provision.

Explore opportunities to administer steroid injections

Outreach wound care clinic, different location.

Explore options to expand Burns Scar Outreach clinic with consultant

### *Research*

Work is ongoing to secure funding for the BRITE study exploring the use of Tetris in ameliorating trauma reactions in the acute phase following a burn injury.

Therapist registered and accepted onto Manchester Burns Course, both modules

Therapist continues with the NBCN AHP lead role.

Therapists to be supported with attending ISBI/BBA in Birmingham 2024.

Attend National Burns Therapy meeting

Establish SOP and implement into practice LPG treatments

Contribute to ELABS / CLIPSO.

Attended internal, regional and national audit meetings

## **Mersey Regional Burn Centre, Whiston Hospital, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust**

*Clinical Lead: Prof. Kayvan Shokrollahi, Consultant Burns, Plastic and Laser Surgeon*

Adult Burn Centre – (All burn patients over the age of 16).

12 inpatient beds (eight ensuite cubicles & one four bedded bay).

Up to 5 ICU beds, 2 commissioned.

Burn Assessment Unit 24/7.

Outreach service.

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

Supra-regional laser service.

Research Centre including for commercial trials.

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

- Positive outcomes in several serious burn injured patients.
- Significant research outputs and prizes (national and international).
- Success of Mr D Gurusinghe, Consultant Burn Surgeon as Trust employee of the month and nomination for Trust employee of the year, outcome tbc at awards evening on 10 May.

### **Challenges during 2023-24**

- Staffing Levels and new staff (high % of junior nursing workforce).
- Psychiatric / mental health provision and severity of mental health morbidity.
- Full compliance with the BBA burn care standards in relation to dietetics and weekend psychology & respiratory physiotherapy service ahead of peer review.
- Merger into the new MWL NHS Trust from STHK and organisational structure.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

- No formal complaints/PALS received.

- Numerous cards and tokens of appreciation received from patients and relatives / carers.
- Display board reflecting patient appreciation.
- All positive 'You said, we did' ward feedback from service users.
- Exceptionally good feedback from Friends and Family surveys with percentage of recommendation being between 96%-100%.
- Trust staff rated MWL as the best acute Trust to receive care in the North West.

### **Research and Audit**

- 20 presentations delivered at the BBA annual meeting 2023, the highest number in the UK as per 2022
- 3 of 6 poster prizes won at the above meeting, exceeding the 2 prizes from previous year.
- A variety of journal publications and textbooks arising from the department.
- Within the dept. 2x journal editorships (KS); deputy chair of the BBA (KS/AT); Lead for Northern Network (AT)
- First prize in two different domains at the annual JWC research awards in London.
- Completion of the multi-centre national collaborative ELABS laser scar trial.
- 2 x talks at the Northern Network relaunch event.
- Commencement and completion of a commercial dressing trial (Biatain).
- Affiliations and collaborations with 3 Universities.
- Collaborations with other centres on a range of projects including (a)fungal infections in burns (b)Paediatric patient concerns inventory.

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

- Awaiting the outcome of a business case and the completion of additional theatre capacity to implement additional staffing and resource / infrastructure to increase the burns service footprint.
- Appoint to 3<sup>rd</sup> substantive Burns Consultant post.
- Potential for hosting a national burn educational event in September 2024.
- Finalise the 'twinning' for educational purposes with the Burn Centre in Nepal.
- Awaiting finalisation of business case for additional staff to support burn outreach service.

- Business case development for increased dietetic service input to burns ward.

## **Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)**

*Clinical Lead: Miss Jasmine Tang, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

Sheffield Children's Hospital Burns service is a 4 bedded unit with access to a PICU bed when needed. We are co-sited with the orthopaedic, trauma and plastics ward. We are able to take up to 30% burn injuries.

Outpatient dressings clinic runs over a 7 day period. There is access to a dedicated burns list each week, a separate MDT review weekly and consultant review/discussion of all admissions.

Clinics for follow up care, alternate weekly between a nurse & therapy led scar assessment clinic for injuries that have healed in <14 days and an MDT, consultant led, clinic for longer term follow up and review of patients who were grafted, took longer than 14 days to heal or had significant safeguarding concerns.

In 2023 we treated 490 paediatric burn patients, providing care across South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire, North Nottinghamshire, Northeast Derbyshire, serving a population of 1.5 million.

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

#### **Digital Roll Out**

The trust has rolled out Careflow handover tool, which has improved communication regarding burns outpatient dressings, including swab results, patient care plans and regular senior nurse review.

The trust has also moved to EPMA (electronic prescribing), this has given us some challenges to overcome in terms of outpatient prescribing but has been incorporated well into inpatient care with specific burn protocols available for analgesia, pruritus and fluids.

Therapy notes have gone digital and are on EDMS system helping MDT working as visible for all team members.

Regular photography of burn injuries during dressing changes has been facilitated through EDMS photography and use of the Pando App improving assessment and provision of wound care senior review and planning across the team.

#### **MDSAS Referrals**

We have successfully rolled out MDSAS referrals across all of our feeder ED's. This has gone well and now all of our referrals are via MDSAS.

This has included multiple teaching sessions across all our feeder ED's, promoting first aid, consistency in referrals and the provision of care.

#### **MDT Staffing**

Upgraded to a Band 7, Burns CNS/Lead Nurse (Liz Nicholls), and now have a nurse specialist team covering both inpatients, outpatient dressings clinic and outpatient follow up clinics.

Olivia Matthew is back from maternity leave so senior physiotherapy cover is restored (senior physiotherapy cover 5 days a week).

Appointment of a Band 4 Data Co-ordinator role (12 hours per week) to support IBID and some service specific administration.

Appointment of an ST3 (or equivalent) clinical fellow for plastics and burns to advance clinical and operative skills in paediatric plastic surgery, hand trauma and burns. This appointment will continue and has been successfully filled by Mr Dominic Ronan till Oct 24.

### **Theo's Burns Club:**

We have 2 staff members who have time in their Job Plan to arrange and oversee Burns Club events (Lindsay Marris and Becky Hubbard). We are very lucky to have support from the trust and can allocate ward staff rota'd hours to attend and support Burns Club events.

- Membership is offered to every patient seen by the burns service.
- Successfully run transition day by Burns Club at Go Ape
- Family Therapy Camp x 2 families attended, supported by therapy team who were able to release 2 senior staff members to attend along with a senior nurse.
- August Camp older children x 4 children
- October Camp younger children x 6 children
- Monthly events each attended by 18 to 25 families
- Family Play sessions x 5, where families can discuss concerns with staff members and meet other parents.
- Xmas Party under 10's
- Xmas Party over 10's
- Currently 220 active Burns Club members and their families.
- Quarterly Newsletter for children, who are Burns Club Members and their families, with news and events for the Club and the Burns Service.
- Party in the Park fundraiser £2914.45
- Chatsworth Walk fundraiser £1,182
- Total raised by staff and families - £9288.58
- Total spend on family events - £9197.50

### **British Burns Association Conference in Dublin**

Attended by:

Burns Lead Nurse & 3 staff nurses, Burns SpR and a junior (Andreas Georgiou and Mathew Bellamy) oral presentation. Burns Psychologist also attended.



## **Presentations:**

### **Oral**

Case Series and Scoping Review evaluating the use of Spincare for the management of Paediatric burns. M Bellamy, A Georgiou, L Nicholls, J Tang

### **Posters**

Burns Practice Improvement Project – Tackling the potential causes of delayed healing in a paediatric burn population, Rebecca Hubbard.

Utilising a Burn Competency Framework to train nursing staff in a Paediatric Burns Unit Liz Nicholls

## **Training**

Completed training in burns dressings and inpatient care for 5 staff and 3 currently in training.

EMSB successfully passed by 5 staff nurses (16 EMSB trained staff in total), 1 of whom, Fiona Timmins, has been offered to join the faculty, joining Rebecca Hubbard on EMSB from our trust, this role is fully supported by the trust.

All members of the therapy team have been able to attend some burns specific training / conference / educational opportunity

Caroline Armstrong, Therapy assistant, has gained an exercise prescriber qualification improving treatment provision and rehab, also completed a hydrotherapy course improving hydro provision for burns patients.

Debbie Smith has completed 3 days of quality improvement training – aiding research focus

Becky Hubbard (CNS) successfully completed the first module of Manchester burns course and is currently undertaking the second module.

Debbie Smith (Physio) completed leading with a coaching mindset course.

Liz Nicholls (CNS) and Kerry Nettleship (OT) completed ILM in Leadership course.

2 members of staff attended burns therapy interest group training day.

## **Service provision & improvement**

Monthly cosmetic camouflage clinic started and running at capacity, run by therapy team.

Unprecedented number of therapy contacts completed in burn service.

Provision of set daily appointments for new referrals to be seen, assisted by implementation of MDSAS referral system.

Burns CNS is now able to prescribe for inpatients, outpatient care and scar management clinics.

New BTM guidelines are being developed for therapy, dressings and surgical care.

Implementation of new customisable school information for post-healing return to school.

Implementation of an early return to school option for children with unhealed injuries, to reduce impact on education and financial burden on families.

Development and implementation of Bitesize burns training sessions for MDT staff, directly responding to delayed healing outcome assessment (Safety Cross) delivered both face to face and via a QR code to a private YouTube channel.

### **Network and National**

NBCN therapy meetings attended regularly – liaison with other services in the North

Therapy attendance at NBCNTSDG meetings.

Links developed between our Dietetics dept and specialist dieticians from across the NBCN.

Sewing technicians attending regular support and training forum – sharing knowledge of pressure garment measurement and fabrication across the network.

Nurse Lead meeting attended regularly, and outcomes fed back to team and implemented across the service, including input on woundcare formulary.

MDT team able to attend Network launch, including Burns CNS team, Therapy Lead, Surgical Operations Manager and Burns & Plastics Clinical Fellow.

Links made across the national networks for IBID data co-ordinators and individual training obtained for new data co-ordinator post.

### **Education**

Liz Nicholls appointed Honorary Lecturer at University of Sheffield. Teaching burns management on the Paediatric ACP course, Primary Care ANP course,

- Lectured in Acute Pain management in paediatric burns and Neuropathic pain in children, Manchester Burns Course
- Embrace (paeds transfer service) burns training resus and inhalation injury in paediatrics x 5 sessions
- In total 31 burns teaching sessions many taught as Burns Care Nurse Advisor along with adult colleague (Sue Hague) from STH Adult service including 8 feeder ED's, and multiple sessions on the Doncaster & Bassetlaw Trust, Tissue viability and wound care training.

- Established wound care training along with Sheffield Children's TVN at Becton Centre for Children and Young People (CAMHS service).
- Training of all theatre staff in management of a burn patient in theatre setting.

## Challenges during 2023-24

### Therapy

2 changes of Occupational staff (without burns experience) have meant cover is stretched and it has been difficult to maintain the outpatient / scar management service and cover the acute caseload.

Staffing shortages / lack of experience has meant research / audit has not been able to be completed.

Issues with silicone provision in pharmacies across South Yorkshire.

Olivia Matthew (physio) off for 3 months following ankle surgery.

### Nursing & Surgery

Kat Mangle Ward 2 Manager seconded to another department, new manager temporary post.

Fire on Ward 1 (next door to ward 2) leading to evacuation of all patients on Ward 2 and closure of ward due to smoke damage affecting burns service provision.

Plastics consultant colleague on maternity leave, therefore SCH burns consultant was required to take on more admin and supervision of SpR's, clinics etc to maintain plastics service.

### Psychology

Charlotte Wright has unfortunately handed in her notice and left early 2024, awaiting new psychologist to start in July 24.

## Research and Audit

Audit completed in to experience of non-English speaking families – to be poster at ISBI.

Development of Spincare dressing application and staff training – ISBI oral presentation

Audit of impact of return to school on healing and infection rates.

## Forward into 2023-24

## **Therapy**

Poster accepted at ISBI

Olivia Matthew to undertake research qualification and complete research into health inequalities in burns

Continue to upskill staff and expand scar management service

Rachel Wooller to complete burns rehab module at Manchester

Further research into VR in upper limb injury to commence (multi-centre trial)

Attendance of all of senior team at ISBI

All patient resources to be backed with video demonstrations (including scar management)

## **Nursing & Surgery**

Burns consultant currently off sick, plastics consultant has returned from mat leave, new locum plastics consultant appointed.

Currently not accepting resus burns due to reduced consultant cover.

Ongoing challenges with consultant cover for burns list and MDT clinic.

Multiple burns trained members of nursing team going on Mat leave, reduced level of burns experience in inpatient and outpatient burns nursing cover.

Ongoing development of use of Spincare in paediatric burns care, including best practice protocol and establishing viability of using product.

Burns Lead, CNS team and 3 members of nursing team and Clinical Fellow to attend ISBI. Oral presentation and poster presentation.

Development of Paediatrics Wound Care Module at University of Sheffield, course commences Feb 25. To include aspects of plastics, burns, trauma and tissue viability.

## **Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)**

*Clinical Lead: Miss Rachael Baines, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

Sheffield Adults Burns Unit is situated within the Northern General Hospital, part of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It is co-located with the designated Adult Major Trauma Centre for the region.

It is a six bedded, stand alone unit, taking up to 40% burns. Our catchment area includes

- South Yorkshire
- North Nottinghamshire
- Northeast Derbyshire
- Northwest Lincolnshire

Ventilated burns are treated on the General Intensive care Unit, with whom care is shared.

Burn patients are treated using an MDT approach throughout their patient journey. This consists of 3 consultant burns surgeons, nursing staff, Occupational and physiotherapists, psychologist and dietitian. Additionally, all the specialities a Major Trauma Centre and large teaching hospital have to offer are available to input on a case-by-case basis.

For outpatients, the nurse-led Burns Dressing and Rehabilitation Clinic is located on the Burns Unit, as is a spacious and well-equipped, dedicated Therapy Room and an MDT/ Psychology Consulting Room. The Clinic operates 5 days/week, overseen by a dedicated Nurse Specialist and assesses and treats new referrals, follow-up patients and post-discharge patients, including out of clinic visits. Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, including scar management are available in this clinic 5 days/week. The consultant-led MDT follow-up clinics are also held on the Burns Unit twice monthly, with scar management from the Lead Therapist taking place concurrently. Additionally, scar management takes place every weekday in Therapy Services, where the in-house Seamstress and further rehabilitation facilities are also located.

This service has seen quite a considerable rise in patient numbers since our last Report, with approximately an additional 100 patients being treated this year. This upsurge is mainly due to an increase in outpatients being seen. Although the inpatient numbers have also increased, this is primarily due to the number of outliers admitted to the Burns Unit, whose numbers are not included in these figures.

### Patients treated in 2023-2024

Adults (age ≥16)	Burns	Non-Burns (SJS/TENS)	Other Non-Burns Skin-Loss*
TBSA% <10%	916		
TBSA% ≥10% to <40%	11		
TBSA% ≥40%	4		
<b>Total</b>	<b>931</b>		

### Highlights of 2023-24

- Peer review self-assessment completed with appropriate remedial action planning beginning.
- Appointment of new Burns Consultant and Clinical Lead, Miss Rachael Baines, who brings current international burns treatment ideas and experience with therapies we have not previously utilised, such as laser.
- Updating of patient information booklets.
- Development of many new clinical guidelines, particular sources of pride being those for treatment of patients who self-harm and mental health and substance misuse issues.
- Implementation of the MDSAS referral system and the start of rollout to referring care providers.
- Sister Helen Sullivan now job-sharing the Senior Sister post and Sister Ellie Goedelt-Russell becoming the band 6 Junior Sister.
- Welcoming to the Team and supporting our International Nurses through their OSCE's.
- Return of Gemma Drydale, Lead OT, from a career break and appointment of Emma Levitt, Burns Dietitian.
- Ellie Goedelt-Russell has completed the Manchester Burns Course and Wendy Shirtcliffe has completed the Principles and Practice of Burn Care module.

- Increasing the amount and scope of burns education provided to new and old recipients, including within this Trust, local universities, referring EDs/MIUs and Community Services.
- No outbreaks of multi-resistant (MRO) in the last 12 months.

### **Challenges during 2023-24**

- The flexi-retirement of our longstanding and extremely valued Clinical Lead, Mr David Ralston, who has sadly had to curtail his burns involvement. His vast experience and commonsense approach will be greatly missed.
- Retirement and general staff turnover involving experienced burns nurses and therapists.
- Now routine use of burns beds for outlying Plastics and Surgical patients and associated difficulties emptying these beds in a timely manner when needed for burns patients. This has been escalated to the Trust Executive Group.
- Current lack of a Lead Physiotherapist. Discussions are in progress with the Therapy Service Manager.
- Current lack of a Burns Psychologist due to no suitable applicants. This is mitigated by input from our Consultant Psychologist and a new Psychology Assistant commencing in post. It is planned to modify the job description to try and make the post more attractive to suitable and experienced applicants, thereby lessening the attrition rate.
- Lack of dedicated Data Input capability for IBID and cover when clerical staff absent. Currently clinical staff try to fulfil these tasks, although work is in progress to address these issues.
- Implementing the rollout of MDSAS and overcoming resistance from our referrers. A bespoke education programme is underway to promote concordance.
- The Trust's Anaplastology Department has closed, leading to no in-house provision of microneedling, medical tattooing and diminished prosthetic services. The Burns Team are examining alternative ways to provide these services.
- There is not 24-hour cover for Medical Photography, causing gaps in patient's records. The Burns team are exploring other strategies to compensate for this.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

- Friends and Family feedback continues to be excellent, with no negative comments, alongside thank-you presents, cards and significant donations.
- No ongoing complaints.

### **Research and Audit**

- Achieving consistently excellent results from our Trust's audit reviews. The Quality Assurance Data Inputting Tool (QUEST) is now used for all Trust audits and the Burns Unit consistently tops the Trust's leaderboard for all of them. Reaching the 100% target on Smoking Cessation referrals, leading to a

personal commendation and visit from the Chief Nurse. Ongoing Infection Control audits show particularly good compliance.

- Annual attendance and presentation of M&M data at both regional and national meetings.
- Continuing to collect data regarding patients who self-harm with the intention that this will guide future practice.
- Participates in trials of dressing and other wound care products.
- Attendance at NBCN and BBA events.

### **Forward into 2024-25**

- Ongoing action planning and implementation of plans relating to the Peer Review Self-Assessment.
- Embedding new practice guidelines and familiarising staff with their implications for practice.
- Cover promised for absent clerical staff and looking at ways to gain clerical support for IBID data entry.
- Exploring all available avenues to develop a robust business plan for the provision of laser therapy and microneedling to treat burn scarring.
- Examining methods to improve photographic capture of all burn patients.
- Currently recruiting registered nursing staff, therapists, and psychologist. In negotiation for Support Worker re-banding to Band 3, to reflect, more accurately, the work they do.
- Use of MDSAS and other photographs to advise and teach local providers on burn care provision for patients unfit to travel for appointments.
- Places obtained on the EMSB course for 4 staff and 2 staff to attend the Introduction to Burns Care course in Chelmsford. 2 staff are planned to attend the BBA in Birmingham.



## **South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)**

*Clinical Lead: Mr Ben Strong, Consultant Plastic Surgeon*

We are a burns facility in a tertiary referral hospital and major trauma centre covering a population of around 1.5 million people across Teesside, North Yorkshire and County Durham. For acute care of larger burns and repatriations, we most frequently liaise with the burn centre in Newcastle, with occasional input from Pinderfields based on patient geography and/or bed occupancy.

In 2023 we treated 178 paediatric burns, of which 17 required an inpatient stay (all >10% TBSA), and 312 adult burns, of which 44 required an inpatient stay (3 of which had burns between 10 and 20% TBSA, cared for by us following discussion with the regional burn centre)

### **Highlights of 2023-24**

- Delivery of the paediatric sensory trolley to allow us to use enhanced non-pharmacological distraction/pain and anxiety relieving techniques for larger dressing changes
- We have introduced the “Spincare” electrospun nanomembrane device for burn dressings in difficult areas, which provides enhanced pain relief and reduced frequency of dressing changes
- We introduced new burn admission data recording proformas and started inputting data into the IBID database again
- We commenced a comprehensive rewriting project for our patient information leaflets to ensure that all information is up to date and meets the expectations of the new Burn Care Standard

### **Challenges during 2023-24**

- A combination of local budget constraints and a lack of transparency relating to centralised funding for the service in combination with an already stretched workforce mean that we have not been able to make much progress in terms of providing further physiotherapy, psychology, dietitian and data entry support for the service. We hope to make some progress on this in the new financial year.
- Completion of required data and noting for inpatient burns remains patchy, partly due to high turnover of nursing staff (with large numbers of agency and/or rotating military nurses) and the fact that the burns facility is based on a multi-specialty ward combining plastics, burns, ENT and Max-Facs. This means that establishing habits with nursing staff is challenging. Discussions ongoing to work out how we can improve data capture for this. The ward and the burns proforma are expected to transition to a fully electronic noting system in the next couple of months.

### **Patient experience and feedback**

The service has no specific patient feedback to report. Please note that the outpatient and inpatient services are co-located with general plastics, and it is not possible to separate out our patient “friends

and family” and “feedback” questionnaires between the burns service and other services using the same facilities

### **Research and Audit**

The service completed an audit project looking at routine antibiotic prescribing for children under 5 with burns. We examined the evidence for and against this, which is still a point of contention. We audited our current practice against the locoregional guideline, which is to prescribe all children under 5 a five day course of penicillin where not allergic. Overall, compliance was good, with a few instances where the policy was not adhered to. Further education took place in the form of oral and poster reminders, and a re-audit is planned

### **Forward into 2024-25**

A major challenge for 2024 will be launching our electronic inpatient record and ensuring that burns inpatient data capture is as good as it can be. We are preparing for peer review in December, and are looking at ways to meet the new burn care standards in as many areas as we can.

*Report authored by Ben Strong, Apr 2024 with input from Nick Simons (Burns Specialist Nurse) and Alysha Brown (Burns Specialist in Occupational Therapy and Scar Management)*

### **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)