

NORTHERN BURN CARE NETWORK

**Annual Report
2024-25**

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 Clinical 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)
- 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 2024/25 financial year, data sources indicate we had over 7,000 new referrals, of which over 175 cases were for a burn injury larger than 10% of the body surface area. Of these, around 55 cases involved large burn injuries over 30% total body surface area.

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 strives to support service delivery and improvement, and to provide quality assurance across all burn services. The network management team is fully established until October 2024 – since this time, there has been a Business Support Assistant vacancy within the team.

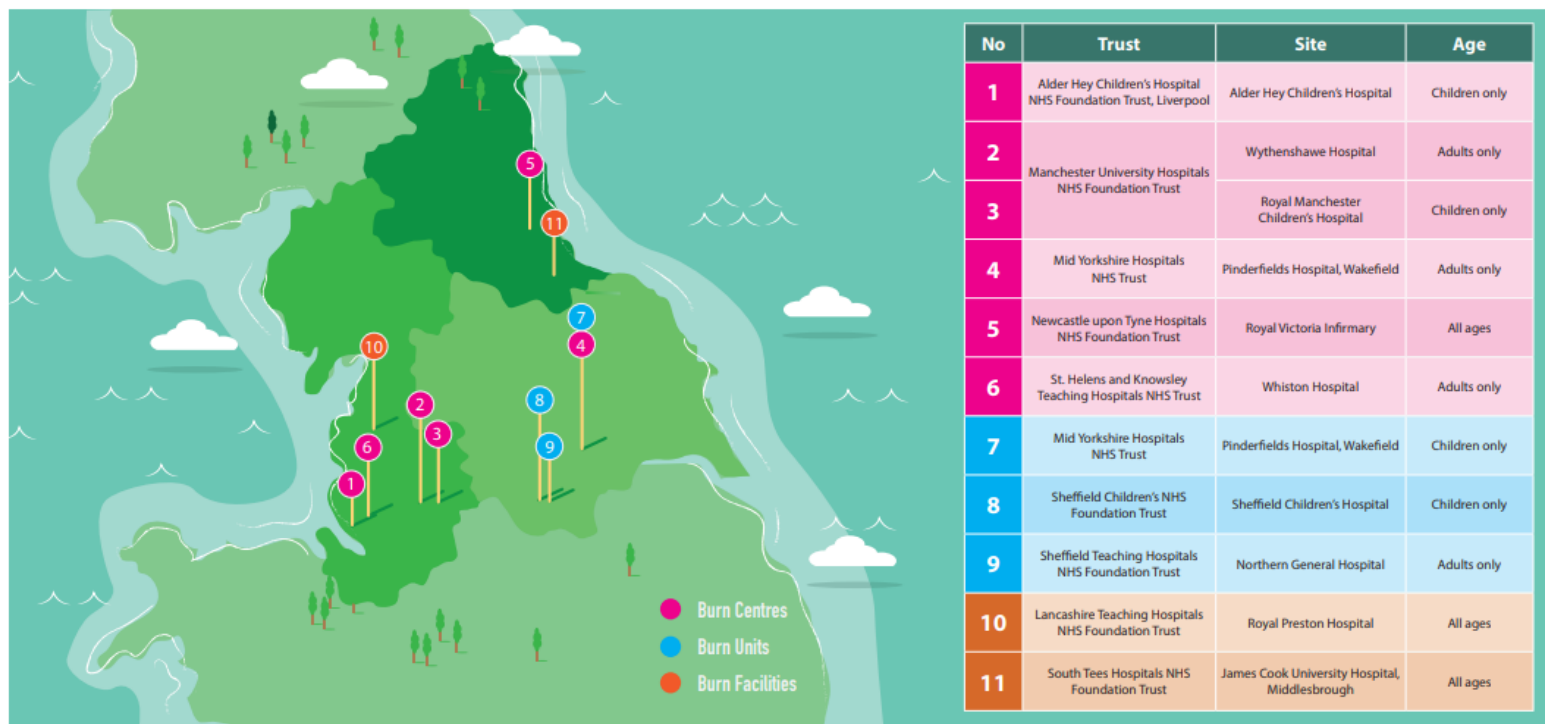
Challenges

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 in 2024/25 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 is with extreme pleasure that we share our 2024-25 Annual Report for the Northern Burn Care Network. During this year we have visited all services and completed the peer reviews across the whole network. We look forward to developing further areas of collaboration, including the network-wide Clinical Advisory Group, quality improvement projects and other areas of the workplan. Despite the wider system challenges we all face, I am truly proud of the achievements of our teams and services across the network. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication."

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 Northern Burn Care Network is commissioned to optimise the provision of care for burn injured patients, across a large supra-regional footprint, as one of four supra-regional burns networks in England and Wales. It 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 2024-25 by the Network; providing assurance against the 2023 British Burn Association Standards, continual improvement of governance arrangements and working towards the Network Specification, hosting the 2nd Annual Improvement Event and supporting teams in improving quality of care. This has led to the development of an expansive workplan in 2025 -26 that has patient care at the centre. 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

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

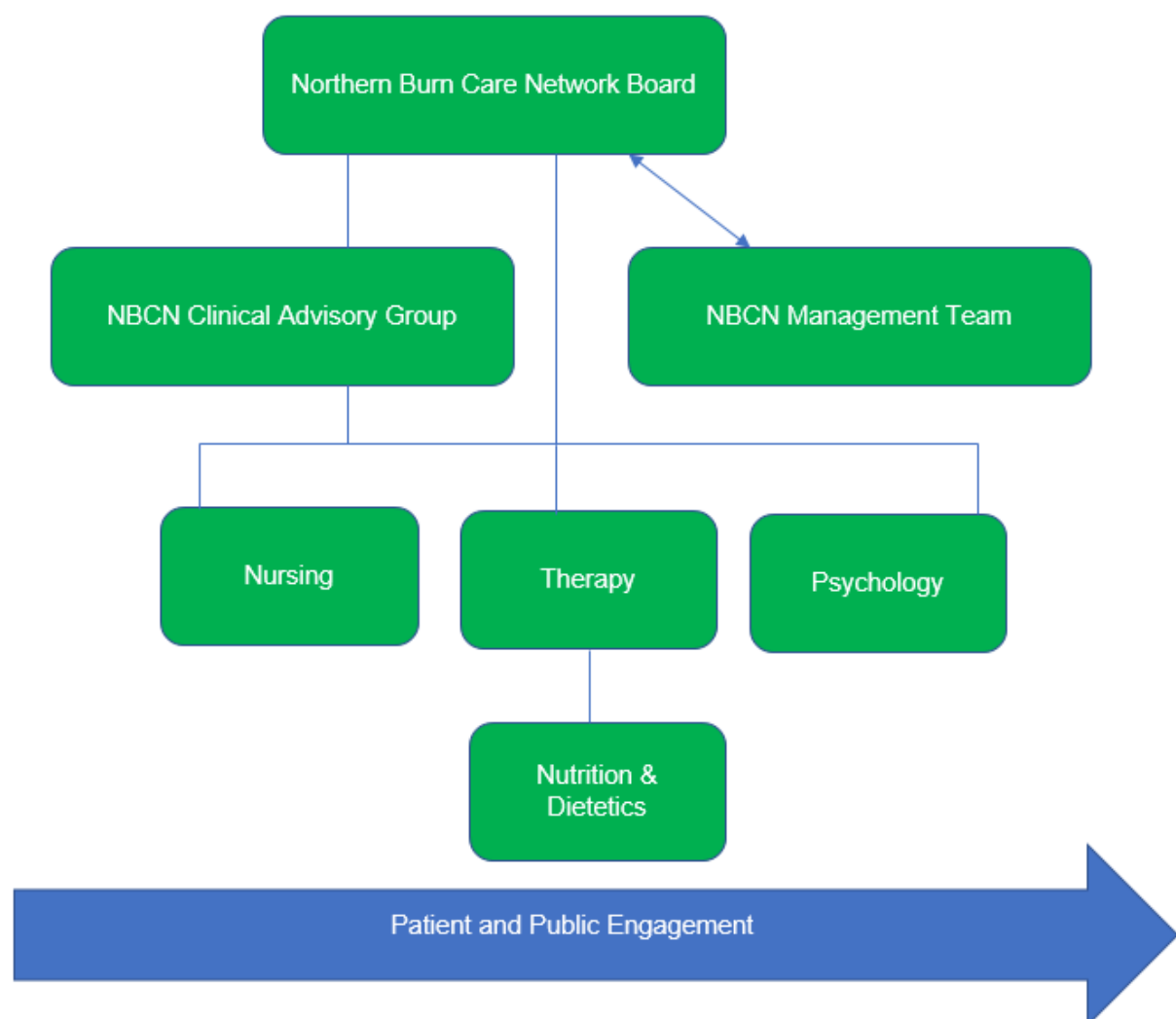


Network Work Programme and Priorities 2024-25

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 2024-25 was to continue the work from 2023-24, strengthening the Clinical Advisory Group (CAG) meeting structure to ensure robust governance. The majority of the programme has been the implementation of the Peer Review of services, developing guidance regarding a specialist and resilient workforce and building compliance with the Network Specification.

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. The ToR has been reviewed during 2024-25, to ensure its proposed purpose and structure align with needs of the Network. The new ToR was agreed in April 2025.

All posts within the Network structure are now fully recruited to, with the exception of the Network Business Support Assistant. This post has been vacant since October 2024, and have been unable to recruit to due to the NHSE pause in all recruitment. The current Clinical Lead, Psychosocial Care Lead and AHP Lead contracts are due to end in March 2025. After successful completion of the recruitment process, each post has been appointed to. There will be no 'gap' for the Clinical Lead and AHP Lead between the position holders. There will be a small 'gap' for the psychosocial care lead. The current members of staff are thanked for the work they have undertaken with the Network for the past three years, and the Network looks forward to working alongside them within the burn services.

The network website continues to run, and is monitored by the Network Team (www.northern-burncare-network.nhs.uk). As the contract was due to end in February 2025, it was agreed to renew the contract for a further 5 years, to February 2030. This will allow the opportunity to develop the website further, with the support of a newly recruited Business Support Assistant, once recruitment is able to continue.

The Network appointed an independent Chair for the NBCN Board meetings. This is a crucial part of the Network specification, and allows the Board meetings to be managed by an objective party that aids decision-making and allows the meeting to run smoothly. This appointment was welcomed by the services across the Network.

The Network has developed and implemented a peer review process for each of the services across the Network. This has taken a great deal of time and input from each service, as well as each member of the Network team. All face-to-face assessments have been completed during the 2024-25 period. Eight reports have been finalised and the full process completed, with monitoring of outstanding actions now in place. Four reports remain in progress, with each service at differing points within the process.

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 27th February 2025 and was chaired by Doctor Tridente. This meeting reviewed all mortalities in burns services within the NBCN for the calendar year 2024 and there was excellent representation from across the network. This was the first face-to-face meeting since pre-covid, and it was a positive meeting that encourage networking, learning and clinical discussion. Feedback is that the clinicians across the North would like to continue with face-to-face Regional Mortality Meetings. Common themes merging from the cases discussed included:

- Increase in suicide by self-immolation
- Appropriate and competent escharotomies
- Effect of swift transfers

Six cases were agreed to be presented at the annual National Mortality Meeting (to be held in September 2025 as a virtual meeting). 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.

The planned audit regarding patient acceptance across the Network has been postponed into the 2025-26 workplan, due to capacity within the Network team.

Capacity planning and system resilience

The Network Manager has continued to build relationships with the Trauma and Critical Care Networks across all Northern regions. There are now established links for discussion and escalation for any issues that may arise.

The Network took part in a National EPRR exercise – ‘Exercise HESTIA.’ This was a National exercise arranged by the UK Health and Security Agency (UKHSA) to investigate a burns response to a proposed Mass Casualty Event. Feedback has been used to determine guidance and future response, should the need occur.

The National EPRR workstream has continued to develop into 2024-25 (see below section for further information).

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 guidance is currently in draft, and will be approved in 2025-26.

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 Clinical Network Meetings bring together the four network clinical leads, network managers and other MDT Leads, along with NHS England to support and coordinate nationally significant issues. The meeting plays an important role in the 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**

All four Networks were required to undertake a Peer Review Assessment against the British Burn Association (BBA) standards 2023. As there is not a specified method or process, the standardisation of burns peer reviews has been added to the 2025-26 national workplan.

All services took part in the Regional Mortality Meeting, for cases to be agreed and presented at the National Mortality review in 2025-26 (June and September 2025).

The NBCN is leading on a Referral Guidance review. Current guidance from 2012, therefore urgent update is required. This has been delayed due to a change in National Leadership, but will continue into 2025-26.

The NBCN participates in the National EPRR Group, implemented to review all associated EPRR- BIRT Teams, major incident response and planned exercises.

Financial Statement

The annual budget for the network is £170,000. An underspend was carried forward from 2023-24 of £98,213

This was spent as follows in 2024-25:

Cost	Amount
Costs - pay	£154, 319
Costs – non-pay	£9820
Total spend	£164, 139

The network budget was therefore underspent by **£104,074**, including the rolled-over underspend from previous years. However, it has been approved to carry over the underspend into 2025-26.

A full plan to for the underspend will be presented to SLT in 2025-26, once the peer review process has been completed. This is due to team capacity, and the assurance required that funds are utilised and allocated in the most appropriate way possible.

Forward into 2025-26

The network team will work to deliver the following priorities during 2025-26:

Relationship Management

- Newly Appointed Clinical Lead to successfully commence post
- Newly Appointed Psychosocial Care Lead to successfully commence post
- Continue to build relationships with ICB contacts across supra-regional footprint

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 by undertaking audit of collected data.
- Monitor and support compliance with newly published British Burn Association Standards (2023) by finalising Peer Review process.
- Work with public health on patient needs assessment

Education and Training

- Network Annual Improvement Event 2026
- Education Strategy Development

Quality

- Finalise Peer Review process, and all associated documentation
- Review/update/develop network guidelines and protocols as per national burn care standards and specification
- Expand Patient Experience and voice within Network decisions
- Progress Data Workstream to improve data quality across Network
- Recruit to and launch agreed Prevention Workstream

Psychological Care

- Continue to support psychosocial teams in network involvement
- Commence outstanding psychosocial workstreams, after review by newly appointed Lead

Burn Care Therapy

- Compression garment standardisation review

Nursing in Burn Care

- Finalise nursing career pathway, with a view to develop a burn specific ACP role
- Finalise 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.
- Plan and host National Adult & Paediatric Mortality Meetings 2025
- Contribute to EPRR/BIRT task and finish group
- Lead national review of referral criteria and associated documentation
- Integrate a network-wide rehabilitation prescription process

Annex 1

NBCN Service Activity 2024

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

ADULTS	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%		476	921	908	378	728	236	851
	≥10- <40%		27	21	14	0	12	0	16
	≥40%		5	5	8	1	3	0	2
	Total Adult Referrals		508	947	930	379	743	236	869

CHILDREN	TBSA % burn injury	Alder Hey	Manchester	Newcastle	Pinderfields	Preston	Sheffield	South Tees	Whiston
	<10%	620	1283	525	724	135	484	111	
	≥10- <30%	14	10	7	4	0	2	0	
	≥30%	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	
	Total Paediatric Referrals	635	1296	533	728	514	486	111	

Total referrals	650	1804	1480	1658	514	1229	347	869
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Non-burns SJS-TENS	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	7
Other non-burns skin loss*	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	0

*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

Service Overview

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

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

Summary of referrals refused 1 April 2024-31 March 2025

Date of refusal	Age group (Adult/Child)	% TBSA	Reason for refusal
			N/A

Highlights of 2024/25

- We appointed a new burn consultant, Mr Mohammed Nassimizadeh, who joined the team in August 2024.
- We participated in the Burn Peer Review in February
- We have built up our teaching. We organized and ran a successful EMSB course in November 2024 and our team are supporting one in Preston. We have taught theatre staff and PICU/HDU nurses and we have set up burns and plastics training days every two months, with very good feedback to date.
- We continue to have a low turnover rate of staff, with lower than average sickness rates, 98.2% compliance with mandatory training and 100% compliance with PDRs. The Burns Ward received a Gold Award in the Trust's annual accreditation process in April 2025.
- Our lead consultant has worked in Lebanon and Sierra Leone over the last six months, supporting the development of burn units in low resource and conflict settings.

- We participated in Burns Awareness Day in October 2024 and a nurse/physio team visited two schools to talk to pupils about burn safety.



- Our patients went to Burns Camp and we had a family who went to Burns Family Weekend.
- We have adapted our ward based clinic and added evening slots to allow flexibility for families and prevent too much work or school being missed.

Challenges during 2024/25

- We face challenges meeting national paediatric burn specification recommendations that paediatric burn providers should have practical involvement in adult burn care. This is being addressed by the appointment of a new colleague and collaboration with Wythenshawe adult burn services.
- We do not have an official outreach service
- 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:

"My son absolutely loved the play teacher. She was a fantastic help to me. He was also pleased with the little play area and being able to get out of his room."

"Everyone could not do enough for my son and put me and my husband at ease as we were going through a traumatic situation."

"Nurses couldn't do enough, kept me updated and always asked if I needed anything."

Research and Audit

Research Activity

We are members of BBA Research SIG

Published papers:

Richards, HS; Staruch, R; Kinsella, S; Savovic, J; Qureshi, R; Elliott, D, Rooshenas, L, King, A; All SG members (n=30); Collaborators (n=25); Blazeby, JM, Young A. The top ten research priorities in global burns care: Findings from the James Lind Alliance Global Burns Research Priority Setting Partnership. Lancet (accepted Jan 2025)

Presentations:

Development and delivery of a centralised Burn Assessment Team (BAT) training course for improving Europe's readiness to respond to burn mass casualty incidents. S Falder, A Hughes, T Leclerc, S Almeland. ISBI, Birmingham, Aug 2024.

National Paediatric Burns MDT Meeting. S Falder, P Saggars, S Pomeroy, M Shah, Royal Manchester Y Wilson. ISBI, Birmingham, August 2024.

Plans for 2025/26

- Working on the Action Plan following our Peer Review to include developing an outreach service, ensuring all guidelines and protocols are on the document management system and continuing working with Manchester burns services for better future collaboration.
- Continue to run the burns and plastics study days we have set up.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Facility)

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

The burns service at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals provides facility- level care to a population of 1.6 million people in Lancashire and south Cumbria. The regional major trauma centre at the Royal Preston Hospital Site. Hospitals in the region include.

Furness General Hospital Barrow

Westmoreland General Hospital Kendal

Royal Lancaster Infirmary

The Royal Balckburn Hospital

Burnley General Teaching Hospital

Blackpool Victoria Hospital

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

The facility for theatre for burns and plastic clients, and we have dedicated burns management clinics as well as burns MDT clinics for burns clients.

The Burns & Plastics Therapy team hold an inpatient and outpatient caseload promoting smooth transition from inpatients to outpatients including scar therapy. There is access to cosmetic camouflage service within this.

We also have a Trust clinical psychology service that we can access for our burn's clients.

Highlights of 2024-2025

The service continues to grow with increased capacity in burns management clinics. Some patients also seen out of the clinic times when we have increased capacity and within the accident and emergency department.

We have made good progress over the last 12 months in working with colleagues in Manchester to maintain a more streamline approach to repatriation patients and this continues.

Trainee ACP for burns and plastics almost completed which will enhance the referral pathway, patient flow, burns admissions and management of these patients. Prescribing module completed within this which will provide a more steam line service for patients requiring any prescribed medicines.

Cosmetic Camouflage service has now re commenced. Patients on this list will be seen and treated by the end of June. 2 x staff completed the course this year which is going to provide good access and cover for this service. Thanks to the Dan's fund burns charity for providing the funding for 1 funded course.

Microneedling Derma pen machine obtained through charity funds, and we will be arranging staff training for this within the next few months.

2 vein finders also obtained from the burns charity to assist staff on the ward with cannulating difficult patients enhancing and providing care.

Staff education – Trainee ACP and Burns specialist nurse have attended both doctors' inductions which has supported multidisciplinary team working but has also assisted in referrals being treated in the right place and at the right time.

Trainee ACP Burns and plastics attended Tissue Viability Link Day to provide staff with knowledge on the burn's referral criteria burns assessment burn depth and dressing choice.

Trainee ACP Burns and plastics and burns specialist attended 2 x staff educational days for the ward staff providing information on burns referral criteria, burns assessment, burn depth and dressing choice.

MDT Burns clinic is now full which will require further review for additional weekly clinics.

All staff attended the relaunch event.

All staff attend mortality meetings.

Trainee ACP and burns consultant attend all CAG meetings and feedback is provided to all team members.

Challenges during 2024-2025

The therapy service currently has no waiting list.

The establishment of staff has remained the same for the therapy establishment despite increase pressure from repatriation patients admitted to the service.

Temporarily a band 5 physio provided for the ward. 1 team member from the therapy team on maternity leave with 2 staff on a rotation provided.

Limited psychology service due to unfortunate absence.

Therefore, unable to also meet some of the required National Burns standards in psychosocial screening of patients. Assessment and staff teaching.

Lack of time required to look at guidelines and policies required to meet the national burns standards.

Staff competencies – Remains an ongoing issue due to rotation of staff although we are working on improving getting these competencies completed.

Staff attendance to attend EMSB can be limited spaces and distance is an issue for some staff although we have 3 attending Preston EMSB in June 2025.

Patient experience and feedback

QR codes made visible in all clinics although patients not really utilising these.

We have recently gone back to paper copies within Burns clinics and have had positive impact and good patient experience feedback.

Information from pals over a 12-month period only one complaint regarding communicating where to go for his clinic appointments received.

Research and Audit

Research study on a silver 2 dressing poor uptake of patients within this so had to stop unfortunately.

Trainee ACP completed a service evaluation as part of her master's which audited referral criteria, completion of burn assessment and quality indicators of pain and nutritional referral.

Time to surgery audit continues improvements have been made in time to surgery over last 12 months.

Time to heal audit.

Burns therapy audit – reaudited Jan 2025

Plans for 2024/2025

Include any actions required to meet burn care standards

Patient information leaflets to be amended to meet the burns standards

To concentrate on guidelines, policies, procedures and pathways to maintain burns standards.

Staff competencies- to ensure that all staff complete their burns competencies.

Ward 4 staff and ward 8 staff have been provided with dates for the Manchester Burns course for staff to attend. Plastics matron supporting ward 4 staff to attend.

Set up microneedling service.

Therapy team to look at steroid injection service developments.

Education- staff to have psychosocial training to maintain standards.

Paediatrics- to attend burns course and complete competencies.

To attend trauma exercise as per burns standards

Birt training to be completed by members who wish to partake

ACP trainee to complete ALS training.

Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Adult & Paediatric Burn Centres)

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

Introduction:

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 2024 – 25

- The adult service has appointed a Trainee ACP who has started her course this year
- The adult service has appointed a band 6 theatre educator for burns theatre
- There have been 2 new ward-based burns band 6 nurses appointed
- Our Burns therapy lead was awarded a MFT GEM Award –for dedication to the team and inspiring and encouraging others to be the best
- We have appointed a Senior Speciality Doctor in Burns to the Consultant rota enabling us to change the consultant job plans to ensure better handover and continuity of care combined with a stronger more predictable presence across both Services
- We have appointed a new senior Burn Fellow.
- We have appointed a Burns Research Registrar
- Burns psychology study days – The adult service, lead by the psychology team, have developed study days to support staff learning surrounding psychological support for the

patients and each other, initially this was developed for new starters but has evolved to include all staff as an opportunity for psychological supervision and team support.

- We have improved our links between the adult service and Alder Hey Children's Burns Centre with one of their consultants attending our adult mdt virtually and attending in person sessions to support his ongoing compliance with the Standards which mandate continued exposure to adult burn injuries
- Northern Burn Care Network Engagement Day (Leeds) – staff from across the MDT represented Manchester Burn Centre learning about new developments across the network.
- We continue to run the Manchester Burns Course and have staff from both services currently undertaking modules.
- We continue to support and run EMSB courses with one of our Paediatric Burns Anaesthetists now being a course director and North West EMSB lead
- Nursing staff from both services continue to attend EMSB courses
- Burns Awareness Day October 2024 – 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 and included an interview on BBC Breakfast promoting the risks associated with hot water bottles supported by an associated patient experience of a scald from a burst hot water bottle.
- Our Burns, Trauma and Rehabilitation (outreach) service will be moving to a new home in a bespoke area of outpatients with increased room numbers to aid with capacity and patient flow plus a full bathroom and additional hair washing sink.
- A new band 6 theatre lead for paediatric burns has been appointed and commenced in post
- We have implemented online handovers at the paediatric unit to facilitate ease of communication and increase consultant presence
- Our MDT across both services can be attended virtually allowing for greater cross service working
- There is MDT online teaching after every weekly MDT which is available for all from both services
- The paediatric burns Practice Educator leads study days/ clinical supervision/competencies for all staff
- The paediatric service is supporting staff to undertake foundation critical care skills
- Our Burns and Plastics After care clinic (BPAC) have run a study day to keep staff up to date and support learning

- We are working together with our PICU colleagues to improve communication between the two services and consultants from both teams have attended an advanced Human Factors course together
- Young adult burn camp went skiing this spring and both children's and young adult camps are planned for the summer

Challenges during 2024 – 25

- The adult service has struggled to recruit to our Band 6 Burns ICU posts increasing our refusal rate and impacting on our ability to sustainably staff our second ICU bed, and as a result, to ensure more robust bed availability these beds are now staffed and managed through AICU. This has required significant changes to the way we work with the need to create new SOPs and plans of care that best support the patients from both a burns and an ICU nursing perspective. The nursing staff on AICU are undertaking burns competencies but this will take time to embed across the team.
- This change in the staffing of the ICU level beds has affected the acuity and dependency on the ward and we are adjusting to these changes in practice including appointing 2 new band 6 ward nursing posts.
- Recruitment and retention remain a challenge and succession planning is being undertaken looking at senior roles within the team
- The pressure for more theatre sessions within the adult service is increasing and a business case is being submitted to increase our theatre sessions from 3 half days to 2 full days and one-half day per week.
- 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

- During 2024 feedback via the “Friends and Family Test” was positive with scores ranging between 96% and 100% satisfaction across BPAC, Outreach and both the adult and paediatric wards.
- Comments and feedback from patients included:
 - A patient wrote to the Chief Executive saying whist been treated on the burns ward the team have gone the extra mile to aid his recovery,” as a former NHS associate director you should feel proud of all staff who are caring, dedicated and exceptional” throughout his stay. The nurse didn't just treat his wounds but supported him at his lowest ebb ensuring he was pain free and comfortable at all times. He cannot thank them enough. The support he received from the physio and psychological team helped so much too. let them all know how brilliant they
 - I came in with my 3 year old daughter after she burnt her hand. We had an appointment and seen immediately. Every staff member, nurse and doctor were brilliant with us. She was calm and treated very well. They also had someone to help distract her with activities etc when procedures needed to be done.
 - The staff are beyond amazing. The nurses are extremely knowledgeable. They are considerate, kind and so gentle. They take the time to get to know the children and have put me, as a parent, at ease. I am so thankful of their care
 - Everyone has been kind and caring and I've felt like I'm able to trust everyone to care for my son
- RMCH were featured on BBC Breakfast on Burn Prevention Day in October. The story centred around the risks of hot water bottles and how to check them for safety and included the story of a patient injured by her hot water bottle which had perished and burst.

Research and audit 2023-2025

The burns service is supported by a research fellow:

Research

Service evaluation of the use of BTM in burn patients (across both adults and paediatrics)

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

Prospective RCT evaluating the safety and performance of Oasis ECM used as treatment for donor site wounds when compared to standard of care.

Evaluation of Deepview imaging technology on burns.

Evaluation of the usability of the Deepview imaging technology whilst assessing burns.

Evaluation from the patients perspective of the Deepview imaging technology whilst assessing burns.

Testing of De-Identified Clinical Specimens for the Development of the BioFire Wound Panel.

Audit

Burns discharge documentation audit.

WHO safer surgery standards compliance in burns theatre.

Audit National Burn Care Standard for provision and outcomes in adult burn care

Communication with GP and community to related to long stay patients.

Discharge documentation for Burns Patient

Forward into 2024 – 25

- Succession planning for senior roles within the team eg CNS paediatric burns
- Continue to work with AICU to develop their nursing team and role out burn competencies and to embed SOPs
- Continue to work with PICU team to support working towards burn competencies and work together to update and revise policies for major burns on PICU
- Continue to work towards unifying policies across both services
- 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.
- Relocation of outreach service at Wythenshawe and development of BPAC at RMCH.
- Strengthen links with Alder Hey Children's Hospital with 2 consultant team members from Manchester going to Alder Hey for training in LASER
- Work towards submission of business case to support complex scar management including micro needling, medical tattooing and LASER.

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Burn Centre – Adult; Burn Unit – Paediatric)

Clinical Lead: Miss Preetha Muthayya, Consultant Plastic Surgeon

Burn Centre – Adult

Burn Unit – Paediatric

Overview

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. Serving a population of approximately 5 million people across Yorkshire, Humber, and North Lincolnshire, the service covers 16 A&E departments, 7 Walk-In Centres, and 11 Minor Injury Units. The Mid Yorkshire Burns Service is based at Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield.

- Adult Regional Burns Centre: 2 Level 1 beds and 5 Level 3 beds
- Children's Regional Burns Unit: 5 inpatient beds including 1 High Dependency bed; outpatient department included

Highlights of 2024–2025

Awards

- Team of the Week (twice) – Adult Burns Service, February 2025
- Kate Grainger Award for Compassionate Care – Senior Burns Physiotherapist Imogen Lee, June 2024

Service Expansion

- Appointment of a new Band 6 nurse to the adult service
- Dedicated service lead for Hand Therapy and Burns Therapy (0.8 WTE), supported by a 1.0 WTE Team Leader

Education & Training

- Ongoing MDT involvement in education, teaching, and training programs
- Regular regional teaching by Burn Care Nurse Advisors (both online and in-person)
- UK Trauma Day: Lectures by Alan Phipps and Brendan Sloan (April 2024)
- Regional & National Registrar Teaching:
 - - Yorkshire & Humber Plastic Surgery (June 2024)
 - - UK National Plastic Surgery (Lecture by Preetha Muthayya)
- Contributions to Mid Yorkshire Plastic Surgery Courses: Ciara Bowers, Alan Phipps, Orla Austin
- BAPRAS Advanced Education Course (Breakout session by Preetha Muthayya)
- Burns ICU Team-led Regional Intensive Care Teaching Day, January 2025
- EMSB Course:
 - - Several MDT members pursuing EMSB coordinator/instructor training
 - - Inaugural Pinderfields EMSB course scheduled for October 2025
- Special Interest Group (SIG) – Pressure Garments:
 - - Held in Wakefield (March 2024), to be repeated in July 2025
- Annual university teaching to promote burns therapy and Wakefield as a place to work
- Reintegration of students into physio/OT placements

Achievements

- Pilates-based rehabilitation introduced for patients
- Initiation of Nurse-Led Assessments in the Adult Burn Service
- Integration of psychological resources:
 - - Luma light cube for mindfulness
 - - Development of psychological toolkits
 - - QR code resources including patient stories
 - - Mindfulness “check-in” posters in waiting areas
- Sexual function post-injury addressed through collaboration with Sheffield Psychosexual Medicine Service
- Inpatient records now paper-lite; outpatient transition in progress
- Therapy service admin streamlined for triaging and demand-capacity evaluation
- Successful NBCN Peer Review (October 2024)
- Acquisition of LPG machine via DANS Fund Charity
- Enhanced psychological and wellbeing support for staff
- Consultant job plan model implemented for onsite and remote working

Research Updates

Oral & Poster Presentations – ISBI Meeting, August 2025:

- Dry Ice Amputation: A Novel Form of Self-Harm? – Davies, Roberts, Hurley, Austin
- Ethnic and Social Media Influences on Burn Management at Home – Ganapathy, Austin
- Steam Inhalation: A Preventable Cause of Scald Injuries – Leong, Austin
- 5-Year Experience of Chemical Burns in the UK – McMillan
- Audit on Online Burn Referral Photographs – Win, Jivan
- Sexual Function in Burn Victims: A Multidisciplinary Survey – Hurley, Muthayya, Aaron
- Telemedicine in Minor Hand Burn Triage – Wyman, Jivan

Publications

- Does NexoBrid® Have Antimicrobial Properties? – Sharaf A, Turpin P, Ulliyott N, Muthayya P. **Burns**. 2024; 50(8):2023–2028.
- Oxandrolone in Severe Burn Management – Feathers JR et al. **Cureus**. 2024; 16(3):e57167.
- Burn Injuries Linked to Personal Heating Equipment – Totty JP et al. **Burns**. 2024; 50(6):1475–1479.
- NexoBrid™ and Coagulation Abnormalities – Capitelli-McMahon H et al. **Burns**. 2024; 50(1):123–131.
- Massage Techniques for Hypertrophic Burn Scars – Barnes SP et al. **J Burn Care Res**. 2024; 45(2):356–365.

Action Plan Update

Initiative	Status
Expand therapy competencies	Ongoing
Expand therapy, paediatric psychology, and dietetics services	Not achieved

Establish 1-in-6 burns-specific consultant rota	In progress; full implementation by September 2025
Burn Service Time-Out Day	Planned for October 2025
Infrastructure development (ambulatory care, laser)	Not achieved

Patient Experience

- Creation of leaflets and video content explaining outpatient dressings and physiotherapy procedures
- Enhanced patient understanding and reduced anxiety
- New patient feedback form capturing broader aspects of patient experience (first cycle complete)

Challenges

- High workload pressures and increased patient complexity
- Staff retention and recruitment difficulties (e.g. Band 7 Adult CNS role unfilled)
- Increased demand for outreach services
- Capacity limitations in paediatric services and therapy space
- Consultant rota coverage challenges

Future Plans

- Hold a full team Burn Service Time-Out Day
- Reinvigorate Burn Link Nurse Network
- Submit additional research and poster presentations to international and national forums
- Organize the 2025 National Burns Therapy SIG (Scar Management & Splinting) in Wakefield
- Launch EMSB training courses on-site
- Implement targeted student rotations for long-term recruitment
- Support international education projects (e.g., Palestinian EMSB training)
- Expand outpatient service provision in paediatrics, therapy, and psychology
- Increase inpatient therapy treatment spaces
- Establish independent burns on-call rota and job plans

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

Service Structure and Activity

Service overview

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

Adult Burns Centre:

921 Patients <10% TBSA; 21 Patients 10%-40% TBSA; 5 Patients >40% TBSA

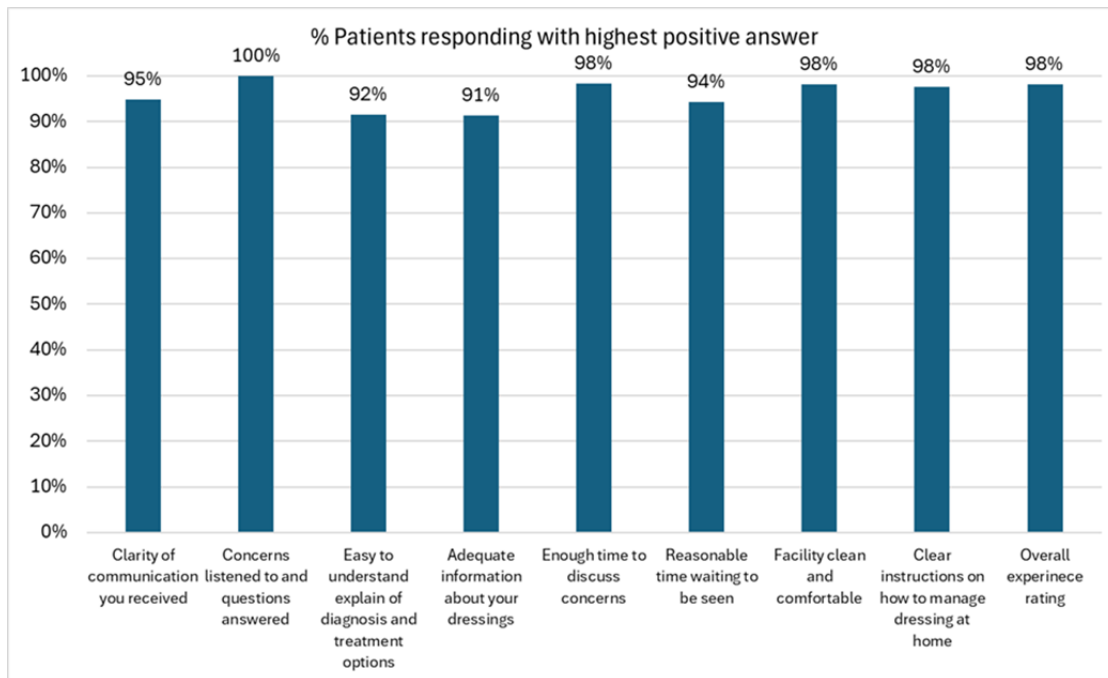
Paediatric Burns Centre:

525 Patients <10% TBSA; 7 Patients 10%-30% TBSA; 1 Patient >30% TBSA

The above figures were presented at the Regional Burns Audit covering the period 01/01/2024 - 31/12/2024

Adult Burns Centre: Ward 37

The adult service has implemented a ward-based burns outpatient clinic as part of a quality improvement project. Now all burns outpatients both trauma and follow up are reviewed by a senior nurse on the ward-based clinic. This has proved very successful and is in the process of becoming a permanent change. There has been stakeholder involvement from the whole MDT and wider management team. As a result of the clinic a new band 6 sister post has been created and is about to go out to external advert. The patient feedback has been very positive from the clinic and is highlighted in the table below:



Service Overview

There has been a change in ward management with Barry Noble retiring as charge nurse and Sophie Robson taking over, Georgia Sheldon has also taken over as band 6 sister. Catherine Hadall is reducing her hours in April and a new part time sister will be recruited to back fill the hours.

Highlights

The ward was recently accredited Gold from the ACE programme, the ward is the first in the trust to achieve this, the whole MDT made a really positive contribution, and the team are exceptionally proud of the achievement. The best practice is being shared trust wide, and the burns centre is being used as an example of excellence within the trust.



Research/ Audit

The nursing and AHP team are making a real effort to drive enthusiasm for research and audit within the team and this has become a standing agenda item within our service development meetings. We have submitted a total of 11 abstracts across the whole MDT for BBA 2025 and hope to continue with this momentum.

Paediatric Burns Centre: Ward 11

Band 6 and Band 5 returning from maternity

A few Senior Band 5 Nurses have left this year and 1 is on maternity.

We have employed 2 new Band 5 staff nurse who will be starting in next few month (both new to burns so limited burns experience.)

Further 2 Band 5 vacancies -interviews to be held in May 2025

Band 5 successfully applied for a Secondment opportunity for band 5 to work with Alison McKenzie in outreach (for succession planning) Placement starting June for 4 weeks.

New TNA (Trainee Nurse Associate role – Band 3 whilst training but when qualified will be a band 4) to assist with ward duties and dressing clinic under the supervision of band 6 or 7) started in March.

Successfully appointed a Nurse Nurse into the weekend role and is to complete her Hospital Play Specialist qualification as part of her continued professional development.

Sharon Donnelly has now fully retired so full time role for Clinical educator for paediatric burns and plastic surgery started full time (60% burns and plastics 40% corporate work) taken on by Natalie Lee. There is still remaining 7.5 Hrs available.

Highlights

Ward 11 has been through the Trust new Accrediting excellence programme - Ward 11 achieved Silver accreditation for the ward



Won team of the year 2024 –People at our Heart award

Ward 11 - RVI Team Winner - Quarter 4 2023/24



“Ward 11 saved my life! – The words of a young person. The ward staff ensured the young person felt safe and cared for at a time of need. The team came across many challenges along the way but continued to keep the voice of the child at the heart of their care and maintained a high standard of care. They were caring and compassionate whilst remaining professional. Following on from this case, some staff on ward 11 have worked closely with the safeguarding team to develop a training package to focus on voice of the child which will be rolled out throughout the trust. A Local Safeguarding Children’s Partnership completed a formal

Safeguarding Practice Review and the Chair commented that “NuTH Trust saved this young person’s life”. A fantastic outcome for a fab team! The young person said the ward 11 staff go above and beyond for everyone that they care for! They listened to me and tried their best to do everything they could to keep me safe. They spoke to me on my own and made time to do different activities with me, like jigsaws and biscuit decorating. I would sometimes slam my door if they didn’t have time for me but I eventually understood it was because they were busy and had other children to care for. They are amazing and without them I would still be in my old, unsafe, environment. They are the Best!

Ward 11 has providing Placements and supervision for over 40 nursing students from 3 different university from the North East.

2 Staff successfully completed the EMSB Course

And further 3 applied to Oct EMBS in Newcastle.

Ward 11 staff raised over £500 for the Grafter



Club

Burns service away day at the Hilton -June 2024

Participating in Research

Gathering data of use of the Spectral AI/Deep View: Burn clinical decision support tool.

Auditing graft loss and donor loss

Plan to commence the Auditing of the Paediatric Nurse led burns clinic

Patient experience

Any complaints that have led to an action NONE.

Thank you to you all
for so meticulously caring
for me and making my
time in hospital as
comfortable as possible

I especially want to thank
Dr Varma, for letting me
go home early.

Kerry and Brenola, for
just being amazing.

Sharon and Sharon, for
making me laugh and
nursing me back to health.

Paige, who would always
wake me up at horrid
times in the night to scrub
me raw!

Furthermore I would
like to thank

All the physios, for making
me stretch to my limits.

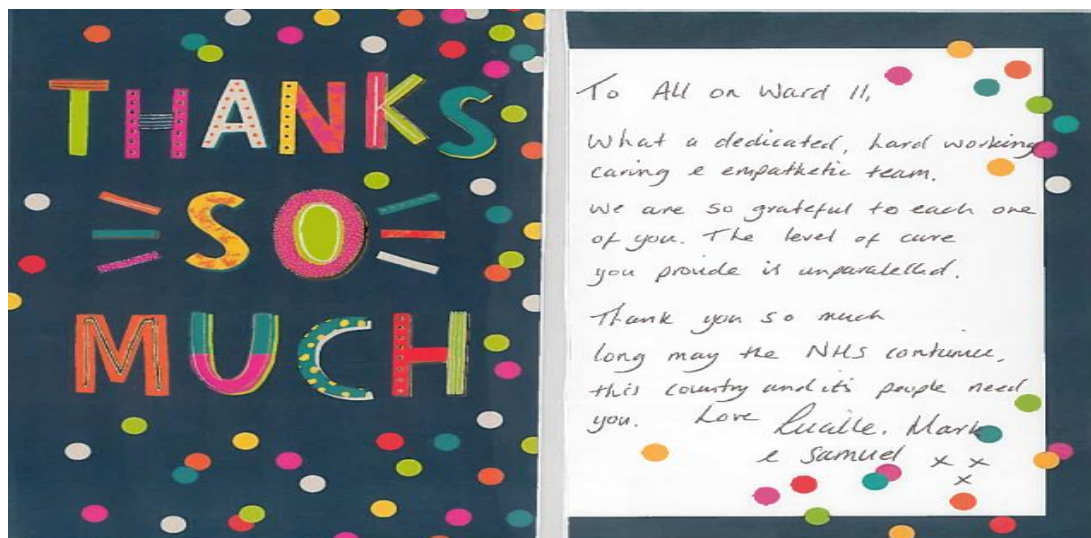
Rona, who seemed to have
a never-ending supply of
coco pops.

And of course Anna and
Georgi, for helping me
settle in and always man-
aging to make me laugh.

Abby & Claire, who as well
as caring for me cared
for my room.

And Crispen, who was alwa-
ys burdened with doing my
obv's.

With much love and
endless gratitude, Symeon



Dear Ward 11 team,

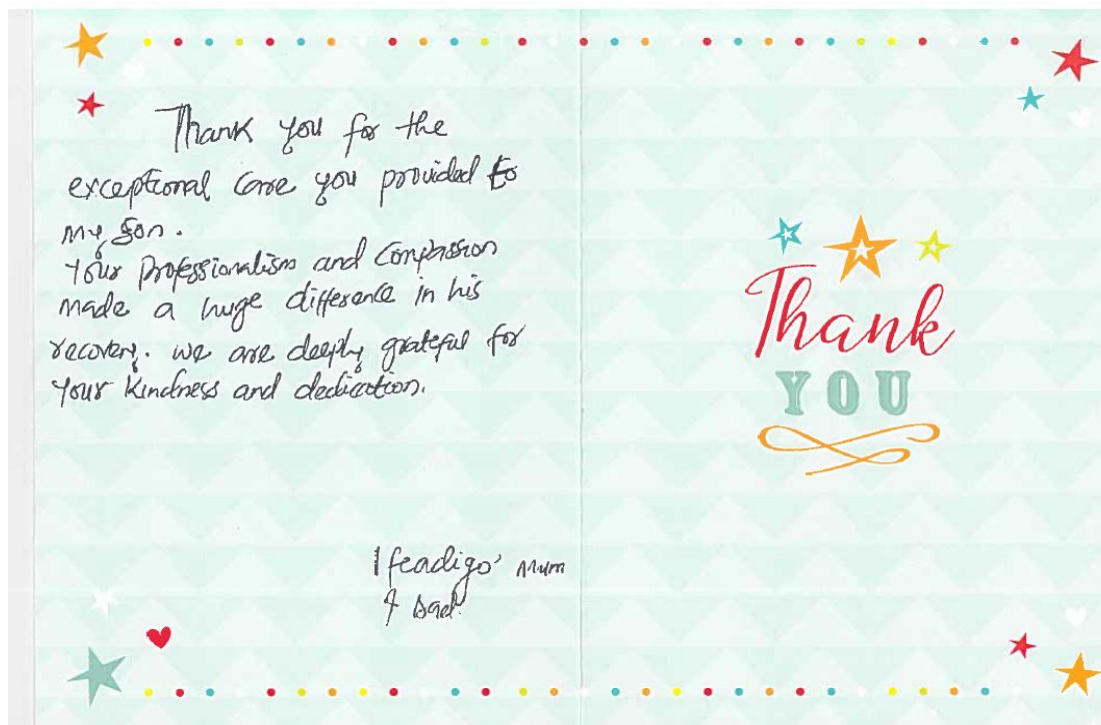
Thank you for the care and kindness you showed us during our stay on ward 11. It made such a positive difference to me and Catarina's stay with you.

Catarina is doing really well and looking forward to returning to school on Monday. We'll always remember your kindness. Love Aislin

To the nurses that helped me,

Thank you so much for helping me. You did a really good job because now I'm feeling so much better. I would like to thank you because you all were so nice and helpful to me.

From Catarina



Future direction

To look in to funding to get another band 6 to mirror Adult service

Outreach

- Donated LPG machine from Dans Fund, members of the team attended training in Birmingham. Attempting to get new LPG service up and running as a treatment for scar management. Has taken longer than anticipated currently awaiting for further instruction from infection control.
- Visits now getting recorded therefore able to code each visit, beneficial for service financially and data collection as activity now captured on IBID.
- Collaborative working with community TVN teams in mental health services, establishing better patient care and less visits to hospital. Outreach nurse asked to speak at TVN conference.
- Ongoing teaching for community and staff and collaborative working with community teams as well as providing in house teaching and training.
- Ongoing high standard of care and ability to be flexible to the needs of the service.
- Succession planning is ongoing within the team especially in physio and paediatric roles.
- Specialist burns physio continues to support and attend family focus weekend which is coming up to 20year anniversary
- Grafters Club continues to thrive and will also be coming up to 20 year anniversary, Paediatric Nurse organised annual Christmas party, children's burn camp which takes 18 children on a residential weekend and also organises family day trip. Aswell as Telegraft news letter released bi-annual with updates
- Two members of the team attended ISBI/BBA

Outreach team received positive feed back from peer review but also shows how fragile the service is due to lack of holiday or sickness cover we are currently in discussion on how to establish a stronger service as well as having administration support.

Rehabilitation/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 is flexible around succession planning and staff development: 1 WTE Band 5 or 6 and 1WTE Band 3 technical Instructor across both Inpatient Adults and Paediatrics under the supervision of the Burns Clinical Lead Physiotherapist. Outpatients are managed by the wider Hands, Burns and Plastic team, although with the recent introduction of the adult ward based nurse led clinic , modifications of staffing levels are being reviewed.

The staffing for OT: 1 WTE Adults Burns, Plastic and Surgery, supported by Clinical Lead OT 0.8WTE

It has been a busy time across Adults and Paediatrics for the Burns therapy service. Complex patients with equally complex and challenging social care requirements, increasing demands on the service.

OT Paediatric Inpatient continues with no funding currently allocated, currently resourced by the burns outreach within capacity. It has not been put on the at-risk register. Increase demands exist within the adult OT service with staff sickness in the wider team having an impact on OT capacity.

Service Developments. Research/Audit.

Clinical lead therapist are core members of the Burns Service Departmental meetings and regularly attend departmental audit.

Therapist has implemented the use of sensory normalisation to improve the patient experience of those patients presenting with Delirium and Dementia on the adult burn ward following a pilot project.

The therapy team have participated in the blind assessing in the local early laser trial within Burns follow up clinics

The Physiotherapy team will be reviewing the impact of the reallocation of the nurse led clinic within adults.

Network Activities

Continued attendance and participation at NBCN meetings

Face to face attendance at Network MDT and Improvement event.

Course Attendance

Clinical lead OT and Physio attended ISBI/BBA.

OT and Physio successfully completed the Manchester Burns Course Acute Care.

Physio continues with the Manchester Burns course rehab module.

National Therapy:

Therapists attended and chaired the national therapy meeting.

Participated in the national burn therapy standard note audit.

Teaching:

Continue to have therapy students on placement within the team.

Therapists taught on the Newcastle Burns and Plastic course

Ongoing in-service training to other members of the wider care team.

Forward into 2025/26

Plans are in being reviewed and consider made for succession planning within Physiotherapy for Lead Physiotherapist.

Burns OT service to be placed on trust risk register for lack of OT staffing for adults and Paediatrics

Therapist continues with the NBCN AHP lead role.

Therapists to be supported with attending BBA in Brighton 2025

Establish SOP and implement into practice LPG treatments pending infection control.

Establish SOP for referral for therapy within burns outreach.

Education

Service Overview

Local

- Burns new starter day- staff nurses
- Healthcare assistant/nursery nurse/trainee nurse associate burn study day
- Wounds study day
- One to one clinical support on the ward (paediatric and adult)
- One to one clinical support in dressing management and burns clinic (paediatric and adult)
- New starter corporate training- staff nurses
- CPD updates- mandatory training, Deprivation of Liberty (Adults) etc.
- Supporting staff to achieve burn competencies
- Introduction to burns for intensive care staff
- Critical care practice development- burn management
- PICU, Ward 11, Ward 37 training updates
- Supporting and implementation of burns link nurses within emergency department
- Burns dressing update with representatives (e.g. Urgotul, BTM, Epiprotect, nexobrid etc.)

Regional

- Burns simulation day
- Burns link nurse day
- Burns regional network study day
- Burns and Plastics Modules (6 week course accredited by Northumbria University)
- Bespoke training to areas within catchment:

Accident and Emergency Departments

Minor injuries, urgent care and walk in centres

HMP (Durham)

Tissue viability

Fire service (trainee's and CPD updates)

Paramedic trainees

- Hazardous area response team (HART) bespoke simulation day
- Burns awareness, prevention and education (national burn awareness day)
- Accident prevention and first aid short videos with Tyne and Wear Fire Service social media campaign

National

- Emergency management of severe burns

Highlights

National Burn Awareness Day



Emergency Management of Severe Burns (EMSB) Course



Feedback

We make a conscious effort to obtain evaluation and feedback of all training and education we facilitate to understand what went well and where we can improve.

Research & Audit

Service improvement- Due to the success of the first bespoke burns simulation day for the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) we are collecting both pre and post evaluation form in the hopes to assess knowledge and skills gained by attending the day.

Since the implementation of the adult nurse led burns outpatient clinic we have been able to collect data that includes how many referrals we receive from areas in our catchment, which allows us to prioritise teaching and education.

Psychology

Highlights

Remodelling of burns psychology service in line with Trauma Informed Care principles following organisational self-assessment - plastic surgery referrals to be migrated from the burns waiting list into the multispecialty psychology service.

Challenges

Long psychology waiting list for adults (RTT peaking at 18 patients waiting 52-70 weeks, with a total of 39 on the waiting list - plastics and burns patients)

Patient Experience & Feedback

Emma H continues to lead the national working group exploring the development of a patient experience evaluation process in burn care

Forward into 2025/26

Continue to work to increase wte across the psychology team in line with the BBA Burn Care Standards. Ongoing work to develop programmatic research across the multidisciplinary team

Attended internal, regional and national audit meetings

11 abstracts submitted to BBA

Funding secured for Tetris & Trauma feasibility study - ethical approval in process

Service evaluation undertaken exploring the use of VR in the adult burns centre - ended prematurely due to IPC concerns

Chris Lewis continues as Deputy Editor of JPRAS and has been appointed to chair the BAPRAS Burns special interest advisory group.

Publications

- Brewin M, Lewis CJ et al. Early Laser for Burn Scars (ELABS) - Randomised controlled trial of pulsed dye laser treatment and standard care versus standard care alone for the treatment of hypertrophic burn scars. Burns (under review)
- Tan P, Lewis CJ et al. A systematic review of the advances in the use of spectral imaging in burns depth assessment. Burns (in press)
- Tan P, Lewis CJ et al. Artificial Intelligence-Enhanced Multispectral Imaging for Burn Wound Assessment: Insights from a Multi-Centre UK evaluation. Burns (under review)
- Smith F, Lewis CJ et al. Variation in Standards for Reporting Artificial Intelligence Research using Burn Image Datasets raises Ethical Questions: A Scoping Review. Burns & Trauma (under review)
- Borg T, Lewis CJ et al. Home cryolipolysis – A burning issue. J Cutan Aestet Surg (In Press)
- Hassan E, Lewis CJ, Piergiorgio G, Ferreira A. Layer-by-Layer Technology for Enhanced Skin Wound Healing: Therapeutic Integration and Clinical Applications. RSC Advances (in press)

Presentations

April 2025 Artificial intelligence-enhanced multispectral imaging for burn wound assessment: Insights from a multi-centre UK trial

American Burn Association, Arizona

Dec 2024 Reproducibility concerns in AI research for burn image analysis

BAPRAS 2024, Swansea

Aug 2024 Innovations in burn wound assessment: A comparative meta-analysis of past and future technologies

ISBI 2024, Birmingham

Aug 2024 A review of first aid documentation and accuracy of burns size estimation in referrals to a regional burns centre

ISBI 2024, Birmingham

May 2024 Ten-year experience of CO2 laser therapy for calcinosis cutis

British Medical Laser Association 2024, Liverpool

Invited Contributions

- JPRAS Burns Podcast
- PODPLAST burns podcast
- BAPRAS Burns advanced educational course faculty
- Spectral AI webinar - the psychology of wound healing, December 2024

Ongoing Projects

- Combination laser impact on burn scar outcome (CLIPSO) study – recruiting
- Coloplast dressing trial – National principal investigator and study site (closed)
- Spectral AI validation trial to commence 2025. Newcastle acting as PI site for UK multicentre trial

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

Service Overview

Adult Burn Centre – (All burn patients over the age of 16).
12 inpatient beds (eight ensuite cubicles & one four bedded bay).
Up to 5 burn ICU beds, 2 commissioned.
Burn Assessment Unit 24/7.
Burn 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.

Summary of referrals refused 1 April 2024-31 March 2025 - N/A

Date of refusal	Age group (Adult/Child)	% TBSA	Reason for refusal
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Highlights of 2024-25

Mersey Burn Centre hosted the national 'Seminars & Workshops in Burn Care Event' which was a resounding success with exceptional feedback leading to a regular fixture in the calendar.
Positive outcomes in several serious burn injured patients.
Significant research outputs and publications. 20 Presentations accepted at BBA 2025.
Success of Mr D Gurusinghe as runner up for employee of the year.
Grand Round with Nepal.
2 nurses invited to join EMSB faculty.
Only ward in whole of MWL Trust to get 'Green' in all 16 accreditation audits.
2 Gold awards from the Journal of Wound care for Most Progressive Society and Best clinical Research.

Challenges during 2024-25

Staffing Levels and new staff (high % of junior nursing workforce).

Psychiatric / mental health provision and severity of mental health morbidity.

Peer review

Compliance with the BBA essential burn care standards in relation to dietetics (plus desirable for weekend psychology & respiratory physiotherapy service) and business case related to the same.

Ongoing issues re: Merger into the new MWL NHS Trust from STHK and organisational structure.

Patient experience and feedback

No formal complaints 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 of England.

Research and Audit

Numerous presentations well-received at the ISBI meeting 2024.20 Presentations accepted BBA.

A variety of journal publications and textbooks arising from the department.

First prize in two different domains at the annual JWC research awards in London.

Multi-centre ELABS laser scar trial presented at national meetings and accepted for publication.

Commercial dressing trial (Biatain) completed and closed and written up for journal submission.

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 (ongoing from previous year).

Collaborations with Merseyside Police and Cheshire police relating to Nitrous Oxide frostbite burns

Plans for 2025/2026

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.

Appointment to 3rd substantive Burns Consultant post in the pipeline.

Potential for 2nd Seminars & Workshops in Burn Care to event for Autumn/Winter 2025 or 2026.

Hosting of the BBA annual meeting 2027/8

Expansion of international grand rounds from Nepal to now include Bhutan, Australia & Sudan.

Business case in development for additional staff to support burn outreach service.

Business case in 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

Service Overview

- SCH burns unit treated 486 unit level burns in the past year and 2 resuscitation level burns between 10-30%. The team also treated 1 child with skin loss condition. The year had been fairly positive with no morbidity nor mortality cases to discuss at the regional or national M&M. The most challenging cases are burns in children with special needs.

Highlights of 2024/25

General

- Overall successful peer review with some excellent practices identified
- Appointment of an IBID data clerk the previous year has improved the quality and accuracy of our data input.

Medical

- Locum consultant appointment (started end of May 2024) which increased robustness of cover for burns as main Burns Consultant had to reduce working hours.
- Appointment of a substantive burns consultant at STH with job-planned activities to cross cover paediatric burns and fully trained in laser therapy for burns scar management further increased robustness of paediatric service with scope to expand service to offer laser scar therapy for the children in Sheffield

Psychology

- New psychologist in post since July 2024 who has been instrumental in helping with aspects of the Peer Review Process undertaken in the last quarter of the year.

Nursing

- Finalising a protocol and details for IN fentanyl pilot to establish a nurse led administration of IN fentanyl for burns dressings in 2025.
- 4 more staff have completed EMSB.
- Theatre team organised into specialised teams which improves retention of skills, helps with identifying training needs, delivery of training and assuring effectiveness of training delivered.
- Establishment of an on-call payment for EMSB nursing cover so ensure the service can continue to accept all referrals.
- There has been a large uptake on burns training across the region including paramedics, ED's and walk-in centre's.
- MDSAS now fully embed in practice.
- Setting up of the Paediatric Wound Care Module alongside our TVN team, at Sheffield University, this has now started and has 15 nurses from across the country including; TVN's, paediatric plastics, burns & trauma nurses as well as ED and community nursing teams.
- 22 nursing staff are burns trained and 16 of those have completed EMSB. We have 4 in training and plan for 6 to attend EMSB this year.
- Utilising Dr VR in our dressings with play specialist adding to our distraction in dressings options.

Therapy

- All vacancies filled currently
- 2 members of staff currently undertaking Manchester burns rehab module
- Therapy research lead in place – completing research qualification
- Poster presentation at ISBI – audit of interpreter use
- All senior team members attended ISBI
- All members of therapy team have accessed burns training/networking
- Addition of therapy training to bitesize burns
- Introduction of Careflow connect aiding MDT handover/communication
- Participation in BBA therapy interest group BTM guideline development

Challenges of 2022/23

Medical

- Consultant sickness has flagged fragility of a service dependent on 1 consultant to deliver majority of the service.
- Whilst two consultant appointments (one from Adult with job planned paediatric Burns commitments) have helped with service delivery and cover, this will be a challenge for the following year as both consultants have since left the Trust and a new appointment advertised (but unsure if the post will be filled as there is a national recruitment challenge into Burns consultant posts).

Psychology

- New in post and straight into peer review, so lots to move forward with in the next year.

Nursing

- Considerable numbers of senior burns staff on maternity leave or off sick led to gaps in service, with occasional short periods of closure and a heavy reliance on adhoc on-call EMSB TOIL service cover.

Therapy

- High levels of sickness/ vacancy for much of period (particularly OT)
- Fairly junior/less experienced workforce – senior staff stretched to provide training and cover
- Difficulty adequately covering scar management service due to vacancies and experience
- Further closure of therapy room due to another CAMHS patient – affecting provision of burns therapy

Patient Experience and feedback

- Donation of VR headsets (following participation as lead centre in SHU VR in upper limb injury research) provides fun alternative for UL therapy.

Research and Audit – research activity, books, publications, presentations, additional info

- Spincare Research Project has been approved and supported by the Trust Research Team and will be due for submission to ethics committee soon.
- Completion of project around safe return to school before wound is healed presented at EBA and implemented in practice on the unit.
- Attendance/representation at joint ISBI/BBA (medical, nursing and therapy)
 - Oral presentation – Development of a protocol for application and management of Spincare in paediatric burn injury
 - Poster presentation at ISBI – audit of interpreter use
- Therapy
 - Current project seeking funding looking at experiences of non-english speakers in burns service
 - Involved in review of therapy competencies for NBCNTSDG (working group – STH and Pinderfields also involved)

Forward into 2025/26

Medical

- Consultant post advertised for SCH to include paediatric burns cover as part of job-planned activities
- Burns service at STH is being re-evaluated; reduced robustness of back-fill cover due to loss of 1 Adult Burns Consultant with paediatric jobplan – to be reviewed alongside service provision at STH
- To encourage more research and getting current research proposal approved by Ethics and started

Psychology

- Development of clinical guidelines
- Integration of psychology care into annual nursing updates

Nursing

- Robust planning of annual updates for burns nursing staff, theatres and PICU.
- Introduction of analgesia and sedation training for IN Fentanyl, Midazolam and analgesia so nurses are better able to manage sedation in burns dressing changes.
- Succession planning for Burns Lead Nurse role (planning 1 year career break Sept 26-27)
- Implementing peer review recommendations across the service
- Continue to improve service provided across the board and develop skill levels of staff.
- Focus on research and innovation in dressings, analgesia/sedation and management of children with neurodiversity and dressing changes.

Therapy

- Continue developing less experienced staff
- Continuing research focus - aim for podium presentation BBA 2026
- Aiming to return to full scar management (outpatient) capacity
- Continuing with video patient information project
- Implement scar taping techniques in to scar management service

- Hoping to participate in VR multi-centre trial for upper limb injuries (some delays in obtaining funding)

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Burn Unit)

Clinical Lead: Vacancy

Service Overview

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

The Burns Unit is a six bedded, stand-alone unit, admitting patients with burns up to 40% total body surface area (TBSA). Our catchment area includes:

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

Patients who require ventilation are treated in the General Intensive Care Unit, at the NGH, with whom care is shared.

Burn care follows a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach, including consultant burns surgeons, nursing staff, occupational and physiotherapists, psychologists, and dietitians. As part of a Major Trauma Centre, additional specialist input is available as needed.

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 per week under the guidance of a dedicated Nurse Specialist, offering assessment and treatment for new referrals, follow-up patients, and post-discharge cases.

Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, including scar management are available 5 days a week.

Consultant-led MDT follow-up clinics are 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.

New Referrals In-Patients & Out-Patients 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2025

Adults (age ≥16)	Burns		Non-Burns (SJS/TENS)	Other Non-Burns Skin-Loss*
	In	Out		
TBSA% <10%	164	564		
TBSA% ≥10% to <40%	12	0		
TBSA% ≥40%	3	0		
Total	179	564		

Data source: Lorenzo system, cross referenced with Unit data and clinical notes

Highlights of 2024

- Patient experience: continued high satisfaction rates from patient feedback
- Updated patient information booklets and policies: improved accessibility and accuracy of resources
- Nurse attendance at Burns Course: Strengthening clinical expertise within the team.

Burns Unit Policies Updated in 2024

Title	National Standards Section and Topic Number(s)
Burns Unit, 'Guideline for Initial Burn Wound Assessment and Management'	E.01, E.02, E.04
Burns Unit, TSOPD Burns Competency Checklist, reviewed July 2024	E.06
Burns Unit, 'Sheffield Adults Burns Unit Therapy Induction'	E.06

Patient Information Updated in 2024


Title	National Standards Section and Topic Number(s)
STH 'Introduction to the Burns Unit, Information for Patients', PD9558-PIL 4061, V3, April 2024	A.01, A.10, E.06
STH 'Burns Unit Discharge Advice, Information to help you when you go home. Information for patients', PD2656-PIL503; V8; April 2024	A.03, A.0, E.06
STH 'Burns Unit Psychology Service, Information for patients, Psychology service', PD6783-PIL2632 V6; July 2024	E.06

Patient Experience & Feedback

- **Friends and Family Test (FFT) feedback:** Continues to be excellent, with numerous patients expressing their appreciation through heartfelt thank-you cards and messages, recognizing the team's dedication, professionalism, and compassionate care. This ongoing support highlights the strong rapport between the team and the patients, reflecting a high level of satisfaction from our patients. Below is an example of a gift from a patient



- **Results of Friends and Family Test:**

	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2025	
Service Type	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	12 Month Trend
IP	95.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.7%	100.0%	96.2%	100.0%	92.3%	100.0%	100.0%	

Data taken from FFT inpatients survey

- **Complaints:**
No active complaints.

Research & Audit

At Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Quality and Excellence Standards (QUEST) framework is used to measure aspects of quality and assurance. All safety, infection control and quality audits are completed daily / monthly. The unit has achieved 100% compliance in 2024 across all of the audits.

The unit was inspected by the QUEST team on 11 February 2024 with the following key findings:

Patient Falls per 1000 bed nights	Pressure Ulcers
2 falls (low / no harm) per 1000 bed nights	No grade 3 or 4 pressure damage has ever occurred on the unit.
Safe :	Caring
Areas of good practice: IPC good practice observed by staff. Accredited 14.5.2025. Ongoing assessments completed. Safety huddles/MDT team meetings are well embedded. Patient risk assessments completed. Medicines – CD's daily checked. Staff Knowledgeable regarding safeguarding standards. Safe and effective staffing. MT/JSET- fully compliant. COSHH Cupboard - compliant QUEST compliance – very good. Areas for Improvement: None Identified	Areas of good practice: Excellent patient feedback regarding delivery of care and communication from the MDT. FFT feedback – good. Calm environment, buzzers timely answered. Privacy and dignity observed for all patients. PROUD values and behaviours observed. Small ward team - work well together, allocation of work, supportive, breaks in place. Good staff health and wellbeing and board. Areas for Improvement: Food – long term patients experiencing repetitive meals; microwave use discussed.

Effective		Responsive	
Areas of good practice: Safety Huddles, MDT meetings well established, good communication between the teams. Nursing documentation very good and discharge plans, PDDs up to date. Pre meal pause (including domestics) embedded in practice. Patient information – very good. Excellent – Learning corner /board and culture. Areas for Improvement: None Identified		Areas of good practice: Communication between external teams very good. FFT- uptake good, feedback positive. Patient boards up to date, leaflets. Privacy excellent – all private rooms. Good process of learning from incidents and complaints. Areas for Improvement: None Identified	
Immediate concerns to be addressed:			
None			
Ongoing Projects			
Improvement of recycling (dressing packs)			
Comments from Ward Manager/Nurse in Charge during the visit:			
Discussion regarding food with the sister who is aware of the issues for patients in long term and is working to address. She has discussed with the patient the Trust policy of microwaves and heating or re-heating food.			
Accredited	X	Met criteria around all 5 domains. Good leadership demonstrated and quality patient care evident.	

Challenges

- **IBID Submission:**
Timely and accurate submission of the International Burn Injury Database (IBID) remains a challenge due to the complexity and usability issues of the system. Efforts are ongoing to streamline data collection and enhance digital support to the team.
- **Resignation of the Clinical Lead who left their post in December 2024:**
The resignation of the Clinical Lead in December 2024 has posed a challenge. Recruitment efforts are underway to ensure continuity of clinical excellence and leadership.

Forward into 2025/26

A dynamic Work Programme is being developed to:

- Enhance service delivery and patient outcomes
- Continue improving patient information and experience.
- Address staffing challenges and maintain a high standard of care.
- Support the implementation of our new EPR system

- Support the peer review process from the network team against national standards for provision and outcomes in adult burn care.

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 2024 we treated 111 paediatric burns, of which 7 required an inpatient stay (all >10% TBSA), and 236 adult burns, of which 31 required an inpatient stay.

Highlights

We have an additional nurse in the plastics dressings team who has an interest in burns and developing this role

We have identified a source of funding to send a number of nursing staff on the EMSB course, and are identifying colleagues who are keen to pursue this

We have streamlined our psychology referral process and now have access to inpatient psychology screening

The elective burn and scar clinic is now open to eRS booking from primary care, giving GPs access to direct multidisciplinary slots with surgeon, therapist and specialist nurse for burn and/or scar related issues

Challenges

There have been repeated delays with development of burns data input for the electronic noting system, partly due to staff sickness. This means that we have not had the required progress on having relevant burns data added to patient notes, and therefore data needed for input into the IBID database is not available

There is a trust pause on non-clinical staff appointments, and therefore we are unable to make any progress in relation to a data clerk

Patient Feedback

“I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Strong and his amazing team at the burns unit dressing clinic. They cared for my husband Adrian since September and their care, professionalism and skills were simply fantastic, we always felt in very safe hands. They have given Adrian back his independence and we will be forever grateful.”

Research and Audit

Audit cycle in antibiotic prescription for paediatric burn patients completed

Going Forward

As the service has expanded, the role of our combined burns specialist and plastics outreach nurse is becoming stretched, and we are in the process of compiling a business case for a full time burns specialist nurse who would work across the inpatient, outpatient and community areas as well as having an educational role.

Further service development will be based on the outcome of the peer review and input from the commissioners

Report authored by Ben Strong, Mar 2025, with input from Nick Simons (Burns Specialist Nurse)

Acknowledgements:

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

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

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

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