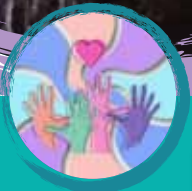




# SOUTH YORKSHIRE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

Annual Report 2024 / 25



## Breaking Cycles

Young People leading change side by side

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# OUR MISSION

## LEAD

Leading in the transformation of care for Children and Young People through the lens of reducing inequalities and creating equity.



## CONNECT

Supporting a complex system to build stronger connections and work in partnership to create meaningful change.



## AMPLIFY

Supporting a system wide approach to hearing the voices of Children and Young People.





# FOREWORD

## Foreword from Nicola Ennis, Programme Director for the South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance.

Many of you will remember the moment back at the start of 2021 when the ancient proverb 'it takes a village to raise a child' struck a resounding chord describing a culture of working together to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families. The proverb contributed to the establishment of the South Yorkshire Children and Young People's (CYP) Alliance in July 2021 and is regularly used to underpin the aspiration of the Alliance.

The CYP Alliance adopted an 'everyone is welcome' membership approach to partnership working and in doing so created a movement, built on the strong foundations of connecting with likeminded people who either have been or wish to make a positive difference to the lives of the children, young people and families they work with. Over the past 3 years the CYP Alliance team have relied on its members, from all sectors, services and organisations, to support the delivery of the NHS England Children and Young Peoples Transformation Programme. This collaborative approach has enabled the CYP Alliance team to act as a system convener, gathering views and contributions to both the challenges and opportunities that have presented themselves across our system and beyond.

This way of working has showcased the strength the Alliances partnership approach and secured additional funding to test out new ways of working, as well as securing our involvement in national initiatives such as the Child Health Equity Collaborative, which you can read about in this report.

their voice across the system, regionally and nationally is often what makes the biggest difference, grabbing the attention of strategic leaders and supporting their decision making when it comes to improving the services children and young people access. Many young people have shared their greatest need which is to feel safe and loved. It is our responsibility to listen and to the best of our ability respond to this need through the services we currently provide and as we plan new services in the future. You can read more about this throughout this report.

It is a great privilege to be part of the CYP Alliance leadership team and be able to connect, re-connect and discover all the amazing work and initiatives that take place to improve the lives of the 450,000 children and young people living in South Yorkshire. However, we do know there is much more we need to do together, with around 180,000 children in South Yorkshire continuing to live in poverty. This means that through no fault of their own they are more likely to grow up with poorer health, are less likely to engage fully in their education leaving them with less choice in further education or employment, leading to a lower income and a shorter life expectancy.



**450k**  
**No. of CYP we connect with to improve lives**

**180k**  
**No. of CYP continuing to live in poverty**

**More likely**  
**for these CYP to grow up with poorer health**

**Less likely**  
**for these CYP to fully engage in their education**

**Less choice**  
**for these CYP in further education or employment**

The insights shared by children and young people do sit at the heart of all we do. To have the ability to amplify

We live in incredibly unsettling times and more than ever I believe working together is the only way to drive forward sustainable change and be able to support and champion each other as we do it. I will leave you with my thanks and gratitude for all you do to support the work for the CYP Alliance and finish with a final word from our CYP Alliance  
**Clinical Director - Alicia Sansome;**

**“As the Clinical Director of the South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance, I am deeply committed to improving the health and well-being of our young population. It has been an absolute pleasure to be a part of the CYP Alliance Team and wider Alliance Network which has been instrumental in fostering a collaborative approach to meeting the needs of children and young people, bringing together professionals from various sectors to address the unique challenges faced by children and young people.**

**Over the past year, we have successfully implemented numerous initiatives, which has significantly enhanced the quality of care and support available to our young people. By amplifying their voices and ensuring their needs are at the forefront of our decision-making processes, we have collectively striven to create a safer, healthier, and more inclusive environment for all children and young people in South Yorkshire. Together, we have created a strong foundation for a brighter future, and I am truly grateful for your commitment to this cause.”**



# ABOUT US

## The South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance.

The South Yorkshire (SY) Children and Young Peoples (CYP) Alliance was formally established in July 2021, with the specific remit to lead the NHS England CYP Transformation Programme. Ensuring positive, sustainable outcomes from this work programme could only be achieved through developing strong working relationships with each Place and so began the building of a wide range of partners to bring the current CYP Alliance membership to around 450 people. This [short video](#) explains what the CYP Alliance is all about.

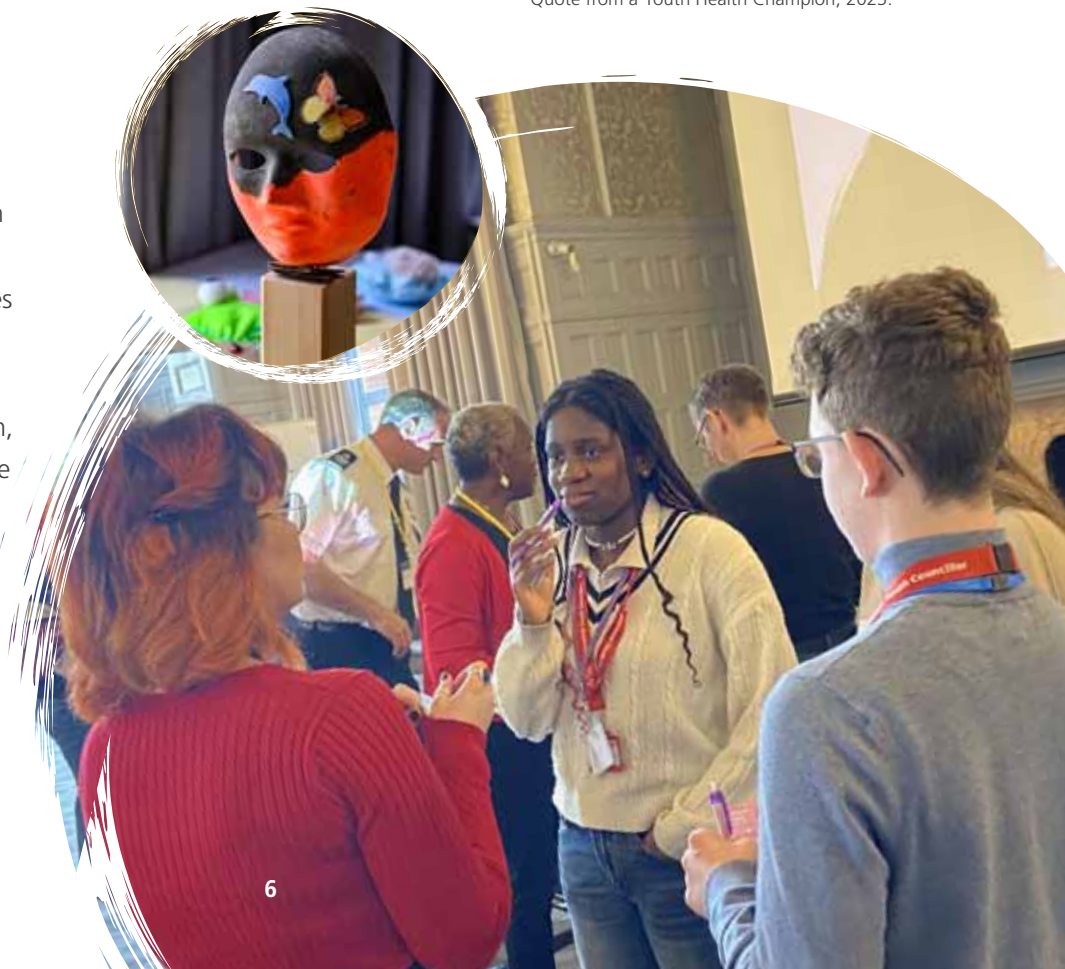
This approach generated a system movement which has opened up additional opportunities to be part of both regional and national initiatives that directly support addressing health inequalities and improving outcomes for CYP living in SY. These opportunities have provided SY with a platform to highlight both the innovative work taking place to improve service provision, as well as highlighting more widely the level of need and additional resource required to bridge the gap between child and adult service provision.



The CYP Alliance have commissioned Chilypep (Children and Young People's Empowerment Project) to lead the CYP youth voice work in collaboration with over 60 local authority, health and VCSE services through a community of practice. This enables the amplification of the voice of CYP on matters that most impact them and avoids duplication of effort.

**"We are often told we are the voices of the future but we are also the voices of the present and we need to be listened to now to be able to shape the future."**

Quote from a Youth Health Champion, 2023.



# OUR VISION & AIMS

**Our collective aim is for children to live happy, healthy lives in order to be able to grow and develop into happy, healthy adults.**

The current government is taking steps towards the universal coverage in England of Strategic Authorities which will support Combined Mayoral Authorities to convene local partners to tackle shared problems. This approach lends itself to our longer-term bigger vision, to create a SY Children and Young People's Strategic Leaders Cabinet with a regular system meeting for strategic leaders to all come together to work in closer partnership on shared problems.

The CYP Alliance vision is to collectively listen and respond to children, young people and their families, to ensure that every child and young person in South Yorkshire has all the support they need to reach their full potential through integration, improvement and inclusion.

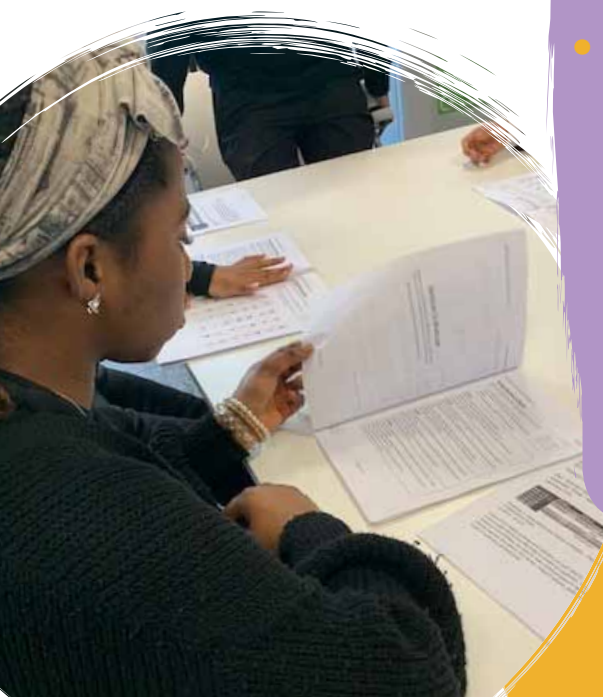
**Our principles are;**

- **Children, young people and families are at the heart of all we do.**
- **We have a system wide consistent strategic approach to delivering the best care with children and young people aged 0-25 years.**
- **We work in partnership to create sustainable change, addressing the inequalities and inequity facing our children, young people and families.**
- **We demonstrate key areas of focus, evidencing impact and improvement in the NHS England Joint Forward Plan deliverables and the Integrated Care Partnership Bold Ambitions.**

As the CYP Alliance has developed the governance and oversight has continued to evolve however there is currently no single system space for strategic leaders to have and hold collective oversight and the assurance that the right things are happening in the right places for CYP.

The CYP Alliance is only one of many spaces where the different needs for children and young people are being raised and where transformational change is being driven.

The CYP Alliance governance structure reports solely to health bodies; NHS England and the SY Integrated Care Board (ICB). We have reached a point in time where we know there is more we can do to work together to tackle the challenges facing children and young people and this will be the focus on our work in 2025 and beyond.





## THE VALUE OF THE CYP ALLIANCE

Through the strength of the CYP Alliance membership and their motivation to work in partnership, we have been successful with specific funded opportunities connected to workforce; early intervention and prevention and the CORE20plus5 - NHS England's framework to improve health inequalities.



Some examples of these are:

- The introduction of **youth workers** to an acute setting at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust supporting long term conditions, transition and mental health.
- The development of a new **mental health champion** role in every acute Trust with paediatric inpatient beds.
- The expansion of the Sheffield Children's Foundation Trust **violence reduction youth navigators'** pilot commissioned by South Yorkshire's Violence Reduction Unit.
- The **Child Health Equity Collaborative** designing a Children and Young People's Health Equity Framework, with support from children and young people, and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) partners across our Integrated Care System (ICS).
- The **Early Years Pilot (Bump, Birth and Beyond)** ensuring pregnant women have access to the best advice with adequate support. This builds on the ambition for all children to have the best start in life, delivered primarily through a collective of voluntary sector services applying a holistic family intervention model radically moving away from silo working and single service offers.



- The **Core20 plus 5 Connectors for CYP (oral health)** led by young people with lived experience within communities where we know there is poorer oral health. The young people are developing materials to share in education settings, to ensure the oral health messages connect with their communities.

Over the past 3 years through collaboration with system partners the CYP Alliance has successfully led or supported specific funding opportunities that offer new initiatives for different health conditions and communities. Through the NHSE CYP Transformation Programme direct funding has been provided to SY Acute Trusts to support the SY Complications of Excess Weight Clinic, Paediatrics Early Warning Signs and Mental Health Champions.

In addition to this the CYP Alliance has enacted the NHS England CYP transformation programme including;

- **Quality improvement and reducing clinical variation** across a range of long-term conditions and continued delivery of the recommendations set out in the national bundles of care for asthma and epilepsy, the RightCare diabetes toolkit, including the roll out of hybrid closed loops for CYP with type 1 diabetes.
- Supported the **Complications of Excess Weight (CEW)** clinics and supporting the NIHR research through submission of data from clinics roll out to the CEW dashboard.
- Supported implementation of inpatient **Paediatric Early Warning Scores (PEWS)** and piloting of Emergency Department PEWS.

# IMPACT OF THE WORK WE DO

The CYP work programme is organised under 4 key themes and all of these themes are enabled and supported through the voice of CYP.

The 4 themes are set out below with a summary of the progress made for each programme of work alongside future plans.

## BEST START IN LIFE

1

**Supporting the Integrated Partnership Bold Ambition**

### Child Health Equity Framework

Testing new ways of developing services.

### Early Years, Bump Birth & Beyond pilot service

Supporting the service deliverables and evaluation.

### Core Connectors for Oral Health

Building capacity with young people to deliver key messages.

### CYP voice, influence and engagement

Connect and amplify.

## LONG TERM CONDITIONS

2

**Leading the Joint Forward Plan Objectives & CORE20PLUSFIVE**

### Asthma

Continue to co-ordinate delivery of asthma care bundle inc. asthma friendly schools.

### Epilepsy

Co-ordinate delivery of epilepsy care bundle (transition and mental health support).

### Diabetes

Co-ordinate improvements in CYP Supported by Getting in Right First Time (GIRFT).

### Reducing Childhood Obesity

Complications of Excess Weight Clinic.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

3

**Supporting the delivery of the NHS CYP deliverables**

### Healthier Together Website

Continue to develop and share widely.

### Palliative and End of Life Care

Progress the South Yorkshire system service model.

### Community Health Services

Lead a SY 0-19 forum, improve the uptake of childhood vaccinations and better access to consistent bowel and bladder information for parents.

## CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE IN THE HOSPITAL

4

**Supporting the delivery of the NHS CYP deliverables**

### Youth Workers in Acute Settings

Fostering confidence and smoother transitions.

### Paediatric Early Warning System

Implemented through Acute Trusts.

### Mental Health Champions

A joined-up approach to supporting children and young people with mental health needs.

### Patient Safety Incident Response Framework

Sharing system learning and improvements.

# BEST START IN LIFE

1

## Supporting the Integrated Care Partnership Bold Ambition

### Child Health Equity Collaborative (CHEC)

#### Progress

As part of the Child Health Equity Framework, we have worked in partnership with Rotherham United Community trust, who have experience in extensive youth work and delivering activities to children in local areas.

An intervention was designed and aimed at children in school Year 5 living in Rotherham and had frequent absenteeism from school. Children were provided with an after-school support group to improve mental well-being and build capacity for positive mental health by facilitating social connections, building trust in systems, creating a sense of mattering, agency and confidence.

The intervention supported a group of 7 children with 100% attendance and received very positive feedback from children, parents, carers and staff.

"The consistent attendance from children has exceeded our expectations. Based on our experience with similar programs, we typically observe a drop in attendance, but this group's sustained participation has been remarkable."

#### CHEC Intervention Team

"The young people are always in a good mood and excited on a Friday because they are coming to the session, and they come back and talk about what they have done and ask if they can replicate the activities at home."

#### CHEC Intervention Parents

### Future Plans

A second group of 7 children is underway, and work is underway to evaluate the impact on school attendance and explore further expansion of the programme.

### Early Years Pilot (Bump, Birth and Beyond)

#### Progress

The Early Years Pilot (Bump, Birth and Beyond) ensures pregnant women have access to the best advice with adequate support.

The funding for this initiative was secured through the CYP Alliance and is being led by the ICB Local Maternity and Neonatal System and delivered by Barnardo's

This builds on the ambition for all children to have the best start in life, delivered primarily through a collective of voluntary sector services applying a holistic family intervention model radically moving away from silo working and single service offers.

72 families are actively engaged in the service and over 400 one to one sessions have been delivered with referrals from self-referral, GPs, midwives, health visitors, family hubs or other statutory services.

"The support provided by Barnardo's has been invaluable in enabling us to further develop and strengthen the wrap around support provided in the area for children and families."

#### Bump, Birth and Beyond Team

### Core20 plus 5 Connectors for CYP

#### Progress

The Core Connectors Oral Health Project is a pivotal component of the broader South Yorkshire Core20PLUS Connectors initiative.

The project primarily has empowered teenagers to enhance their oral health awareness and subsequently advocate for good oral health practices within their communities. The aim of the project was to empower children to improve their oral health. Through the programme we have worked with over 50 children from 6 SY Secondary Schools.

"My child is more aware of foods good for the health of teeth and she now brushes her tongue."

#### Oral Health Project Parent

"My son really enjoyed the day and thought what he learned was really useful."

#### Oral Health Project Parent

### Future Plans

We will continue to work with schools in South Yorkshire on the oral health programme to provide awareness of the importance of oral health and build the capacity in young people to keep their teeth and the teeth of their future children healthy.

## Active Start

### Progress

The Active Start project launched in September 2024 across South Yorkshire to support early years children's development through physical activity. Led by Yorkshire Sport Foundation and the SY ICB CYP Alliance, it helps practitioners in health, education, and communities promote movement confidently.

Active Start integrates activity to support the development of motor skills, communication, social development, and literacy. It provides resources, training, and practitioner support across four Places.

A Train the Trainer model and Active Start Champions ensure sustainability, with 30+ tutors trained. Participants include early years teams, public health professionals, the nursery and school workforce, fostering long-term impact through shared learning and collaboration. 78 settings have accessed the 1-day Active Start practitioner course so far.

"The day after we received the training, we started to test out some of the activities with the children...now have a dedicated slot for the 3-year-olds to attend the sports hall where all the children are active for 60 minutes a day."

#### Active Sport Attendee

"Parents tell us that their child has been showing them about what they have been doing in the sports hall, and many parents telling us that after the movement sessions their children have been going to bed better at the end of the day."

#### Active Sport Attendee

### Future Plans

The programme will be evaluated in the Summer of 2025 and plans are being made to further expand and sustain the programme in the long term.



2

# LONG TERM CONDITIONS

## Leading the NHS England Joint Forward Plan Objectives & CORE20PLUSFIVE

### Asthma

#### Progress

Establishment of a SY CYP Asthma leadership team as part of the CYP Alliance (3 clinical leads, working 2.5 days per week in total, supported by the CYP Alliance core team). The team has coordinated, led and driven transformational improvements in line with the national care bundle.

- Creation of a regional asthma pathway with clear thresholds for referral and clarity on availability of diagnostics at each step of the pathway.
- Developed and delivered tiered asthma training incorporating environmental risks, and risks from smoking and vaping for CYP with asthma, training over 2000 people so far.
- Recommend that all staff who see children who are suspected to have asthma, complete appropriate tier training and promotion of the CYP asthma training at every opportunity.
- Placed the tiered asthma training on the South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce and Training CPD offers for visibility and ease of access.
- Developed a face-to-face training for tier 1 to allow for wider access.
- Provided tier 1 asthma training to schools and clubs as part of our Asthma Friendly Schools and Asthma Friendly Clubs Initiatives.

- Created a range of materials hosted on the Healthier Together website for professionals, CYP and parents to access. These resources include general asthma information, air pollution, mould and damp, housing, and links to other supporting organisations such as Moving on Asthma.
- Developed an accreditation process for schools to become asthma friendly with over 200 schools accredited so far.
- Established guidelines for consistent inhaler prescribing across South Yorkshire.
- Established a monthly meeting to share learning around complex cases and liaison in management of shared cases.

#### Future Plans

Development of an asthma transition pathway, building on from conversations already underway across the system.

Further development of the asthma referral pathway, incorporating extensions in diagnostics such as extended FeNO testing and Spirometry, and where appropriate connecting into Community Diagnostic Centres.

Collaborate with stakeholders to develop a vaping cessation programme for CYP and continue to advocate for smoking and vaping cessation at every contact.

Collaborating with stakeholders to ensure tiered asthma training mandatory for primary care professionals.

Further develop and promote education resources which can be used by staff to work with children or by children and their families directly and ensure these are up to date and available on the Healthier Together website.

Work with NHS regional and national colleagues to advocate for asthma training to become part of CQC standards to support the release of staff to complete the training.

Continue to develop relationships and harness training capacity in other organisations to widen reach and further improve uptake of the tiered training.

Continue to expand the reach into schools and clubs to engage with and create agency with as many people working with children who have asthma as possible.

Contribute to the national asthma registry once established and share data as a part of European SPACE collaboration study and Yorkshire.





## Epilepsy

### Progress

This year some of the solutions implemented to address the challenges for epilepsy in South Yorkshire have been to Increase system meetings and awareness raising initiatives and coordinated team efforts to enhance collaboration. The work has seen sustainable quality improvements such as;

- Successful analysis against the national bundle of care.
- Positive reflection in NHSE reports.
- Development of a Well-Being Questionnaire for mental health assessment.
- Improved screening processes.
- Enhanced compliance with national standards.

### Future Plans

Through next year work will continue with the transition process for CYP with epilepsy, supporting both children and staff with clear guidance and a single access point for support.

Work will continue to address the waiting times for an assessment with Neurology and collaborative work is planned with Paediatric Neurologists, Adult Neurologists and the CYP Epilepsy Core Team.

A task and finish group are working together to create an Epilepsy Care Plan that is streamlined across South Yorkshire.

There is potential of funding opportunities for an Epilepsy Pathway to be embedded in community diagnostic centres in SY.

## Diabetes

### Progress

One of the proudest achievements of the team this year has been strengthening relationships between clinical and commissioning teams.

By fostering collaboration, the right people are involved earlier, creating a foundation of mutual respect and understanding that leads to better outcomes.

Children and young people with diabetes face immense challenges, as managing a chronic condition affects countless daily decisions and actions.

This burden can take a toll on mental health and make diabetes management more difficult.

Balancing their well-being with the need for effective diabetes control is a constant challenge, especially given the long-term health implications.

Implementation of the Family Support Worker (FSW) role with Doncaster and Rotherham, both securing funding to extend the current FSW service for another 12 months providing crucial advice and support to families with CYP with Diabetes.

### Future Plans

Advocacy at a system level is crucial and teams have continued to work together to drive an improvement across the system. More intensive, long-term care with consistent practitioners could make a significant difference, and closer integration between mental and physical health services would provide the holistic care that young people truly need.

The recent Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) review for Diabetes has highlighted areas for system wide working and transformation and these will be the focus of work throughout the next year.

## Complications of Excess Weight

### Progress

Work has continued in partnership to address the challenges related to the rise in childhood obesity and support services in their efforts to reverse this concerning trend. Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust hosts and leads the Complications of Excess Weight (CEW) service which is designed to support those children with complex health complications related to obesity. The service is delivered by a multidisciplinary team, including family support workers, specialist nurses, dietitians, psychologists, and consultants. The CEW service delivers care closer to home from locations in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. The team provide holistic, individualised care that addresses mental, physical, and social needs.

### Future Plans

The rise in obesity continues to be a challenge for children nationally and in South Yorkshire. The positive outcomes and feedback from participants in the CEW service have highlighted the importance of continuing and expanding this initiative. 2025/26 is the final year for ringfenced allocate funds for the service therefore securing future recurrent funding is crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability and the much-needed support offer to children, young people and their families. Over the next year further work will take place to ensure tackling obesity is met through a longer term joined up approach, acting differently to support pregnant women, children, young people and their families through seeking to understand a more preventive approach to reducing childhood obesity.

**3**

# CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE IN THE COMMUNITY

## Supporting the delivery of the NHS CYP deliverables

### Palliative and End of Life Care

#### Progress

The South Yorkshire CYP Alliance is supporting Palliative and End-of-Life (PEoL) the implementation of a system delivery model which will transform care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions by addressing service gaps, workforce development, and collaboration across healthcare, social care, and community organisations.

Key initiatives include CYP Palliative and End of Life Education for professionals, 24/7 care access, seamless transitions between settings, specialist training for healthcare professionals, and data-driven improvements. The CYP Alliance plays a central role in integrating services, securing funding, and piloting innovative care models to ensure equitable, high-quality, and person-centred support for children and their families.

Palliative and End of Life Education has been provided to the 545 members of the SY system by the SCFT Palliative Care Team and Bluebell Wood Hospice.

“From attending the palliative and end of life study day, I’ve had the confidence and skills to have some difficult conversations with patients which I wouldn’t have had before, the skills I have learnt have been invaluable.”

**PEoL Course Attendee**

#### Future Plans

This work has significantly enhanced the quality and coordination of PEoL, ensuring families receive compassionate and comprehensive care during the most challenging times.

Moving forward, the focus remains on sustainable funding, expanding access to personalised care, and strengthening partnerships to ensure every child, regardless of location or condition, receives dignity, comfort, and the best possible quality of life.

### Youth Health Champions

#### Progress

This year the CYP Alliance has supported the South Yorkshire Young Person Health Champion recruitment. The health champions support a range of projects and programmes and work with children and young people to codesign impactful interventions to improve the health and well-being of children in South Yorkshire.

#### Future Plans

So far, we have worked to recruit and train 7 young people as health champions and are aiming to continue the programme and sign up 12 in total.

### Childhood Immunisations

#### Progress

The CYP Alliance collaborated with Fir Vale School to enhance engagement and increase childhood vaccination uptake, with Roma and Somali students where uptake was known to be low.

A six-week program was developed, including visits and classroom-based activities where students received education and support from healthcare professionals. They explored healthcare settings, discussed community barriers and vaccination myths in a supportive environment with adult engagement workers, and co-produced health resources.

These resources were designed for distribution within their school and community to promote awareness and encourage informed decision-making about vaccinations.

The programme was well received by students and staff and a third group is underway and in total we have worked with over 30 children.

#### Future Plans

Work will continue with a further group of students alongside evaluating the impact of the programme.

In addition, work is in the later stages with Sheffield University to seek NIHR funding to undertake research that will expand the programme and evaluate the long-term impact on vaccination rates.

Work is also taking place in collaboration with Save the Children who we are working alongside on the Fir Vale Immunisations Strategy.



**The CYP Alliance collaborated with Fir Vale School where Roma and Somali students co-created health information to support the increase of childhood vaccination in their communities.**



## Healthier Together

### Progress

The resources on the South Yorkshire Healthier Together website have been developed in partnership between parents and healthcare professionals from across Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Bassetlaw and supported by the CYP Alliance

The site provides information on common childhood illnesses, including advice on the 'red flag' signs to look out for, where to seek help if required. The website is a vital source of information for CYP and their families in South Yorkshire.

The data shows that the resources are used not only by parents but also by healthcare professionals, ensuring consistency of care across South Yorkshire.

### Future Plans

Reducing unnecessary variation improves the overall quality of care and throughout next year work will continue to develop and promote Healthier Together across the system.

# CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE IN THE HOSPITAL

4

## Supporting the delivery of the NHS CYP deliverables

### South Yorkshire Clinical Guidelines

#### Progress

Work has continued to develop shared guidelines for use across South Yorkshire to support clinicians to manage a range of conditions and presentations including sepsis and headaches.

Supporting materials such as posters have been produced to support effective implementation of the guidelines.

This work is designed to support standardisation of care pathways across South Yorkshire and increase the quality of care.

#### Future Plans

Through next year work will continue to embed existing guidelines, measure their effectiveness and impact, alongside developing additional guidelines in areas such as urinary tract infections.

### Mental Health Champions

#### Progress

This initiative has established a Mental Health Champion role in South Yorkshire provider trusts to ensure children and young people admitted to paediatric settings receive holistic care that prioritises mental health with physical health. The champion role bridges gaps between paediatrics, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), mental health liaison teams, learning disability services, and other partners, advocating for mental health awareness and improved collaboration.

Champions dedicate time to foster cultural change, staff development, and integration of care, aiming to reduce distress for patients and staff.

#### Future Plans

By involving young people, families, and multi-disciplinary teams, the initiative promotes clear care pathways and supports training opportunities.

The role has already built team confidence, encouraged training uptake, enhanced joint working, and improved the experiences of CYP and their families in paediatric settings.



## Youth Workers in Acute settings

### Progress

This initiative by The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust offers a Youth Worker service for young people aged 11-25, focusing on those with long-term conditions identified through Accident & Emergency (A&E) visits and hospital admissions, as well as those transitioning to adult care.

Managed by Voluntary Action Rotherham and the CYP Consortium, the initiative integrates youth workers into acute settings, providing a relational approach that resonates with young people. Each participant is assigned a dedicated youth worker who helps navigate the transition to adult-led services, complementing the NHS England Transition Strategy. Key collaborators include young people, families, health and social service workers, and VCSE organisations.

The service has demonstrated positive outcomes, as seen with 13-year-olds with type 1 diabetes. They received weekly support, team-building workshops, and parental involvement, resulting in improved diabetes management, self-esteem, and peer support.

### Future Plans

The initiative fosters confidence and smoother transitions for young people into adult care systems and will continue in 2025/26.

## Paediatric Early Warning System (PEWS)

### Progress

This year has seen the launch of the new early warning system for doctors treating children to quickly identify deterioration, escalate care, and act on parental concerns called the National Paediatric Early Warning System, also known as PEWS.

Standardised digital and paper templates have been developed for teams across SY that comply with the specification set for national PEWS. All Trusts have been supported to appoint an Implementation Lead to support PEWS and they are invited to work with the National NHS England Team through a Community of Practice.

### Future Plans

The National Team will work with PEWS leads, and teams to ensure that all inpatient paediatric settings are supported in their plans to transition to the National PEWS.

**Throughout next year work will continue to evaluate, improve and embed PEWS to increase the safe and effective care of CYP in acute settings.**



## CYP VOICE EMBEDDED THROUGH ALL OUR WORK



### Voice of CYP

#### Progress

The CYP Alliance have commissioned Chilypep (Children and Young People's Empowerment Project) to lead the CYP youth voice and participation work in collaboration with over 60 local authority, health and VCSE services through a Community of Practice forum. This enables the amplification of the voice, and the engagement and participation of CYP on matters that most impact them and avoids duplication of effort.

#### Future Plans

Work will continue with Chilypep to ensure all CYP Alliance work takes place in collaboration with CYP, and their voice is heard and present across programmes to drive, inform and influence work.

In 2025/2026 we will:

- Continue to build and strengthen the CYP Alliance Voice and Participation Community of Practice.
- Recruit 12 Youth Health Champions, with representation from each Place in South Yorkshire
- Dedicate a standing item on the CYP Alliance Strategic Board Meeting agenda to CYP voice and participation, reporting on the work of the Health Champions and Community of Practice. We will explore opportunities for CYP to attend the board and for the board to report on progress to the youth health champions meeting.

## NEW WORK FOR 2025 / 26

### Pathways to Work: The Health and Growth Accelerator

#### Progress

The CYP Alliance team have been asked to lead on priority 2 of the Pathways to Work Health and Growth Accelerator aimed at supporting YP aged 16-24 who are experiencing depression and anxiety and/or are neurodiverse struggling to remain in work or education settings or to enter the workplace

#### Future Plans

Through 2025/26 the CYP Alliance will lead work with system partners on this priority and steer YP to identified interventions and look to scale up or design new interventions to support these young people.

### Cerebral Palsy

#### Progress

NHS England has developed a national framework to improve health outcomes for children and young people with cerebral palsy. The framework is intended to help Integrated Care Systems commission high-quality services.

The program covers children and young people aged 0-18 with cerebral palsy, including those in neonatal care and transitioning to adult services.

### Future Plans

The CYP Alliance will support this work in improving health outcomes for children and young people with cerebral palsy resulting in:

- More consistent, high-quality service provision across different regions
- Better-informed commissioning decisions by Integrated Care Systems
- Enhanced support throughout the patient journey (from neonatal care through transition to adult services)
- More standardised care pathways for children and young people aged 0-18 with cerebral palsy

### Neighbourhood Multidisciplinary Teams

#### Progress

Neighbourhood Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) for children and young people will provide integrated care that provides timely access to specialist advice, including paediatric and mental health expertise, through primary care-led team working. This will deliver care closer to home and improve the outcomes and experience for children and young people, as well as their families and carers.

#### Future Plans

The CYP Alliance will support the implementation of MDTs for CYP, with the ambition of having 1 to 2 newly established MDTs in SY ICB seeing patients by the end of 2025/26.

# CYP ALLIANCE CONFERENCE 2024 – BREAKING CYCLES

On 30 May, 2024 - South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance hosted their 3rd annual conference. The 'Breaking Cycles' event took place at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Sheffield.

The event was planned in partnership with Chilypep, who connected with a wide range of children and young people voice and participation leaders to ensure we heard from young people to co-create the conference. You can watch a short film about the conference [here](#).

Over 100 children and young people from across South Yorkshire attended the conference, along with 100 key strategic decision makers from health, social care and wider partner services who came to hear what the children and young people had to say. There was also the opportunity for attendees to talk together about the next steps in our work as the Children and Young People Alliance.

Nicola Ennis, Children and Young People's Alliance Programme Director, said:

**"The theme of this year's conference was 'Breaking Cycles' and it was all about driving forward change and improvement in services for and with children and young people."**

"The event was entirely co-produced with children and young people from across South Yorkshire, they are leading the way for change, and it was so important to us that this event was designed with their input."

The fun packed agenda for the event included activities, workshops and talks from key figures.



Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England, along with a young person, were the keynote speakers and they spoke to the audience about how important it is to listen, and hear, the voices of children and young people. Dame Rachel de Souza said she is committed to presenting young people's ideas to politicians and policy makers.



During workshops, delivered by partners from across the region, attendees learned more about the experiences and challenges children and young people can face and heard first hand from children and young people about some of the potential solutions to these challenges. Cohen Keeling, aged 17, is a Barnsley Young Commissioner through Chilypep, he did a fantastic job co-hosting the event with Nicola Ennis. Cohen said of the event:

**“It felt absolutely incredible and fulfilling to be able to co-host the conference, it was fun but also informative as it lead to me talking to people I usually wouldn’t have if I’d just attended the conference.**

**The conference as a whole I feel was very important because it got people talking about sensitive topics that are usually avoided, for one reason or another, and opened up necessary conversations in a safe and respectful way.”**

A number of young people took to the stage throughout the day and shared their personal experiences and gave insights into what can be done to ‘break the cycle’ and make improvements for children and young people. Attendees were also treated to performances by not one, but two, musicians. Latifah Makuyi, from the Golddigger Trust, opened the event with a Taylor Swift classic, shake it off, to get everyone warmed up and ready for the day. Towards the end of the day, attendees were surprised with an appearance by Sheffield singer, Leona Jorgensen, who got everyone singing along to Let it Be. Latifah then closed the event on a high with a karaoke sing along. Find out more about the day at: [Co-creating change side by side: Healthier Together.](#)

The insights gathered and connections made from the conference will be taken away and used to help form the next steps and priorities for the Children and Young People’s Alliance. Some of the takeaway messages from the day are:

- There are lots of different mediums where we can listen to the voice of children and young people, and where they can share what matters most to them - art, music, podcasts etc.
- We need to support professionals by providing training developed and where possible delivered by young people.
- We need to amplify different campaigns taking place across South Yorkshire e.g. Doncaster eating disorders campaign.
- Young People want access to activities and opportunities that support their future aspirations.



# WHAT DO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE TELL US?

All the work of the CYP Alliance now and in the future should be underpinned, informed, influenced and driven by the voice of children and young people.

To enable this the CYP Alliance commissioned Chilypep (Children and Young People's Empowerment Project) to consult with a total of 84 young people throughout June and July 2023 totalling 18 hours of face-to-face consultation about the social determinates of health and what that meant to them and here is what they said;



As we continue our work it will be with all of this at the heart of all we do to ensure that we always consider these wider social determinants across our programmes.

## 2025 AND BEYOND

The last 3 years have seen significant progress with the establishment of the CYP Alliance alongside all the great work taking place across South Yorkshire to improve care and experience for thousands of children and young people.

The ambitious and exciting programmes will continue in line with national, regional and system objectives in 2025 and beyond. We will continue to ensure the voice of CYP underpins all the work we do. We will keep in mind;

- **Children and young people require a comprehensive and holistic approach to development**
- **Children and young people often face interconnected challenges that require a multidisciplinary approach**
- **Early identification and intervention are crucial for addressing issues that may impact a child's development**
- **A shared system strategy often extends to community-level collaboration**
- **A shared system strategy is often aligned with policies that promote the well-being of children and young people**
- **When multiple partners work together, there is a higher likelihood of consistency, coordination and sustainability in the support provided to children and young people**
- **Involving children, young people and families starts to redress the balance of power creating collaborative relationships between families and professionals, promoting a shared understanding of goals and strategies for the well-being of the child**
- **Bringing resources and expertise together from different sectors can lead to more efficient and effective use of resources.**

It's been an amazing year for everyone working together across the CYP Alliance. The CYP Alliance team will continue their work across South Yorkshire to support the lives of many Children and Young People.



Ruth Brown



Cathy Winfield

**This year, the South Yorkshire Children and Young People's (CYP) Alliance has made significant progress in transforming care through collaboration, equity, and empowerment. As a growing movement of over 450 members, the Alliance has brought teams together to co-create innovative, inclusive solutions that respond to the needs of our 450,000 children and young people across South Yorkshire.**

We have expanded programmes that tackle long-term conditions, enhanced early years support, and ensured that the voice of children and young people is present through every stage of our work and decision making. Whether through Asthma Friendly Schools, the Child Health Equity Collaborative, Oral Health campaigns led by young people, or improvement work in Acute Settings, our work has consistently sought to include lived experience and insight from a wide range of healthcare professionals to drive sustainable improvements.

However, we know there is lots more to do. Despite the upcoming changes to the NHS and the uncertainty these may create, maintaining a focus on children and young people is more important than ever and this is demonstrated by the wide range of national and local programmes aimed at improving care and outcomes for children and young people in the long term.

Nicola Ennis, Children and Young People's Alliance Programme Director, said:

**"The South Yorkshire CYP Alliance plays a vital role in leading, driving and supporting these transformational improvements and this must continue at pace through the next 12 months and beyond."**

This commitment remains the focus of the Alliance and its members moving forward.

With 180,000 children still living in poverty in south yorkshire, the road ahead demands even deeper collaboration.

In 2025 and beyond, we will continue to amplify youth voices, implement neighbourhood multidisciplinary teams, and work across all partners to ensure a co-ordinated and strategic focus for children and young people.

Our ambition remains bold and unwavering:

**To ensure every child and young person in South Yorkshire has the opportunity to live a happy, healthy life, with services shaped by those who use them. Together, we are breaking cycles and building better futures.**

**Ruth Brown**  
CEO of Sheffield Children's  
Foundation Trust & CEO CYP Alliance

**Cathy Winfield**  
Integrated Care Board Chief Nurse  
and CYP Executive Lead



# MEET THE TEAM

## EXECUTIVES



**Ruth Brown**  
CEO of Sheffield Children's  
Foundation Trust & CEO CYP Alliance



**Cathy Winfield**  
Integrated Care Board Chief Nurse  
and CYP Executive Lead

## CORE PROGRAMME TEAM



**Alicia Sansome**  
Clinical Director



**Nicola Ennis**  
Programme Director



**Paul Griffiths**  
Senior Programme  
Manager



**Helen Burgess**  
Project Manager



**Donna Coleman**  
Project Manager



**Charlotte Clarke**  
Project Coordinator for  
Palliative and  
End of Life Care



**Lucy Clarke**  
Management  
Support Officer

## CLINICAL TEAM



**Allison Low**  
Diabetes Clinical Lead



**Deborah Leese**  
Asthma Co-Clinical Lead



**Hazel Talbot**  
Acute Care Clinical Lead



**Laura Churm**  
Patient Safety Clinical Lead



**Nicola Standing-Brown**  
Asthma Co-Clinical Lead



**Ravi Thevasagayam**  
Surgery Clinical Lead



**Sonal Kansra**  
Asthma Clinical Lead



**Suhail Habib**  
Epilepsy Clinical Lead



## **SOUTH YORKSHIRE** CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE

For more information about the CYP Alliance,  
please visit our [website](#).

If you would like to become a member of the  
CYP Alliance please join via this [link](#).



# Breaking Cycles

Young People leading change side by side