northern cancer alliance

Working together to improve cancer care across the North East and North Cumbria

NHS

Northern Cancer Alliance Annual Conference

Event	Northern Cancer Alliance Annual Conference	
Title	Turning ambition into action: delivering the National Cancer Plan	
Date	Friday 9th October 2026	
Time	9.00-16.30 Registration 9.00 with a prompt start at 9.25	
Venue	Delta Hotels Marriott, Marconi Way, Metrocentre, Gateshead. NE11 9XF	
Welcome refreshments and networking (25 minutes)		
9.25-9.30	Welcome to the 2026 Conference	**Dr Birju Bartoli** Chair, Northern Cancer Alliance Chief Executive, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
9.30-9.50	Opening address Celebrating 10 years, shaping the next 10	**Alison Featherstone** Managing Director, Northern Cancer Alliance
9.50-10.05	Health inequalities: targeted action from deprived communities and underserved populations – why Cancer Waiting Times matter	**Ben Anderson** Director of Population Health, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Improve Performance and Diagnose Earlier		
10.05-10.20	Achieving sustainable performance	**Aaron Tucker** Head of Programmes, Northern Cancer Alliance
10.20-10.35	What high performing pathways do differently	Speaker from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Speaker from South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
10.35-10.50	The next chapter for early diagnosis	**Dr Katie Elliott** Clinical Director (Primary Care), Northern Cancer Alliance. GP, North Tyneside
10.50-11.10	The human impact of waiting – a patient's story	Patient Speaker
11.10-11.15	Slido Q&A session	
Coffee and networking (20 minutes)		
Future Cancer Care		
11.35-11.50	Moving a pathway into community	**Dr Ruth Sharrock** Consultant Respiratory Physician, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

11.50-12.05	From innovation to impact: transforming cancer care in the gynae oncology pathway	**Dr Nithya Ratnavelu** Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
12.05-12.20	Unlocking capacity through automation	**Le Minh Thao Doan** Postdoctoral Research Associate, Teesside University
12.20-12.30	Slido Q&A session	
12.30-13.00	What the National Cancer Plan means for the North East and North Cumbria	**Andrew Prudames** Deputy Director – Delivery, NHS Cancer Programme, NHS England
Lunch and networking (60 minutes)		
14.00-14.20	Welcome back The power of the badge: embedding prehabilitation in communities through partnerships	**Chloé McMurray** Personalised Cancer Care Prehabilitation Lead, University Hospitals Tees **Matty Carr** Healthier Communities Co-ordinator, Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation
14.20-14.50	Northern Cancer Alliance Annual Awards	**Dr Hassan Tahir** Clinical Lead for Primary Care, Northern Cancer Alliance **Alison Featherstone** to present Awards
AI in Cancer Pathways: Accelerate or Proceed with Caution?		
14.50-15.30	Panel debate – AI should be rapidly integrated into cancer pathways within the next five years	**Dr Michael Smith** Medical Director, North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board **Dr Tim Cunliffe** Joint Lead for Skin Cancer and Skin Surgery, South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust **Amanda Walshe** Lead Cancer Nurse, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust **Chair – Alison Featherstone**
Better Treatment, Better Lives		
15.30-15.45	The missing piece of cancer care: can supportive oncology give better outcomes?	**Dr Jen Vidrine** Clinical Director for Palliative & End of Life Care, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
15.45-16.05	From improvement to impact: transformation through Cancer Improvement Collaboratives	**Clare Doney** Lead Cancer Nurse, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
16.05-16.20	Precision medicine – from genome to bedside: the future of personalised cancer care	**Professor Sir John Burn** Professor of Clinical Genetics, Newcastle University
16.20-16.25	Slido Q&A session	
16.25-16.30	Closing remarks	**Nicky Lambert** Clinical Lead for Nursing, Northern Cancer Alliance
Close and networking opportunity		
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