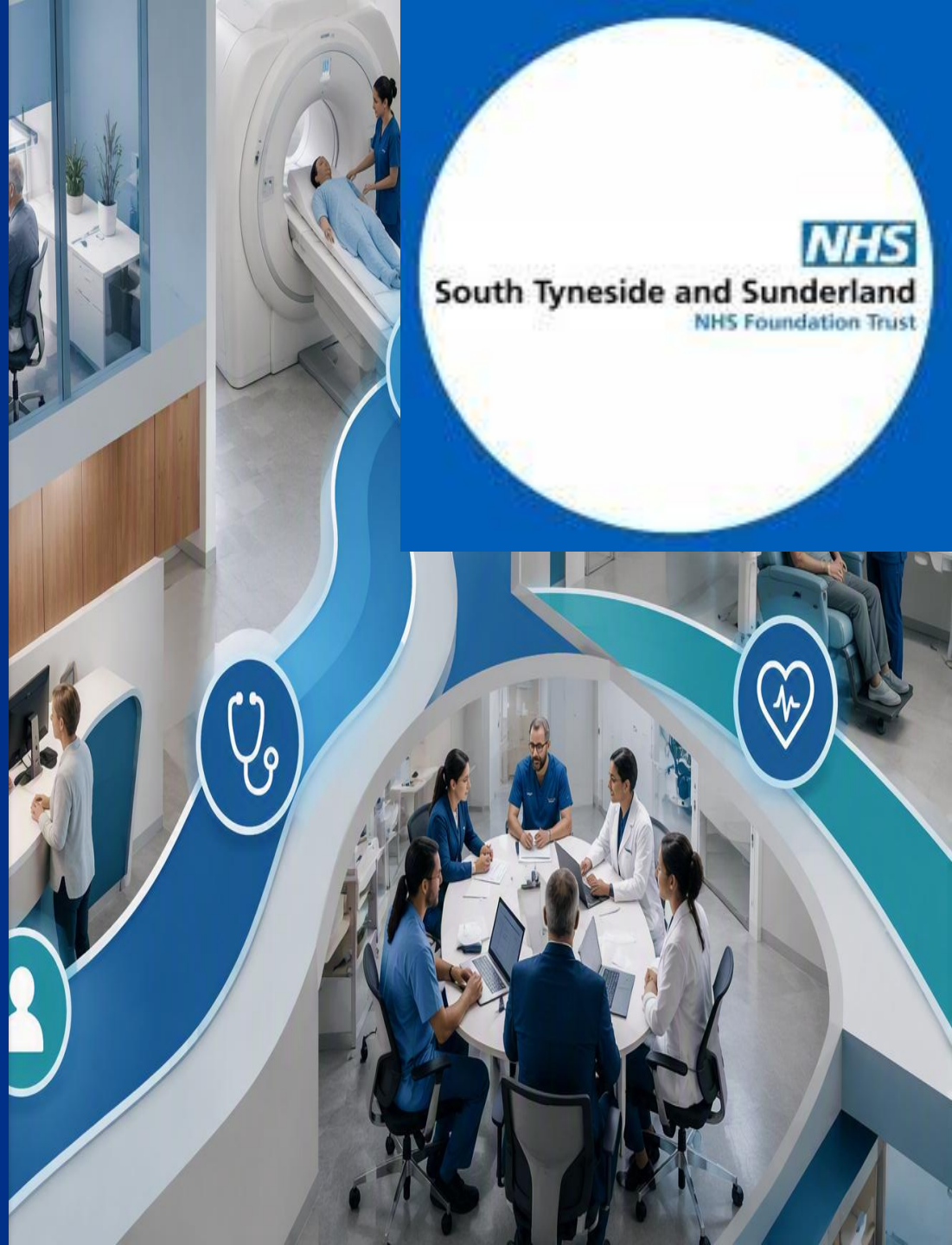
WHAT HIGH-PERFORMING TRUSTS DO DIFFERENTLY

Sustainable cancer performance at STSFT

Know the numbers. See the patient. Design the pathway around both.



NHS
South Tyneside and Sunderland
NHS Foundation Trust

Northern Cancer Alliance Annual Conference | 9 October 2026

Understand what drives the number

TRUST — Know the overall position

TUMOUR SITE — Know the impact on each standard

PATHWAY — Know where time is gained or lost

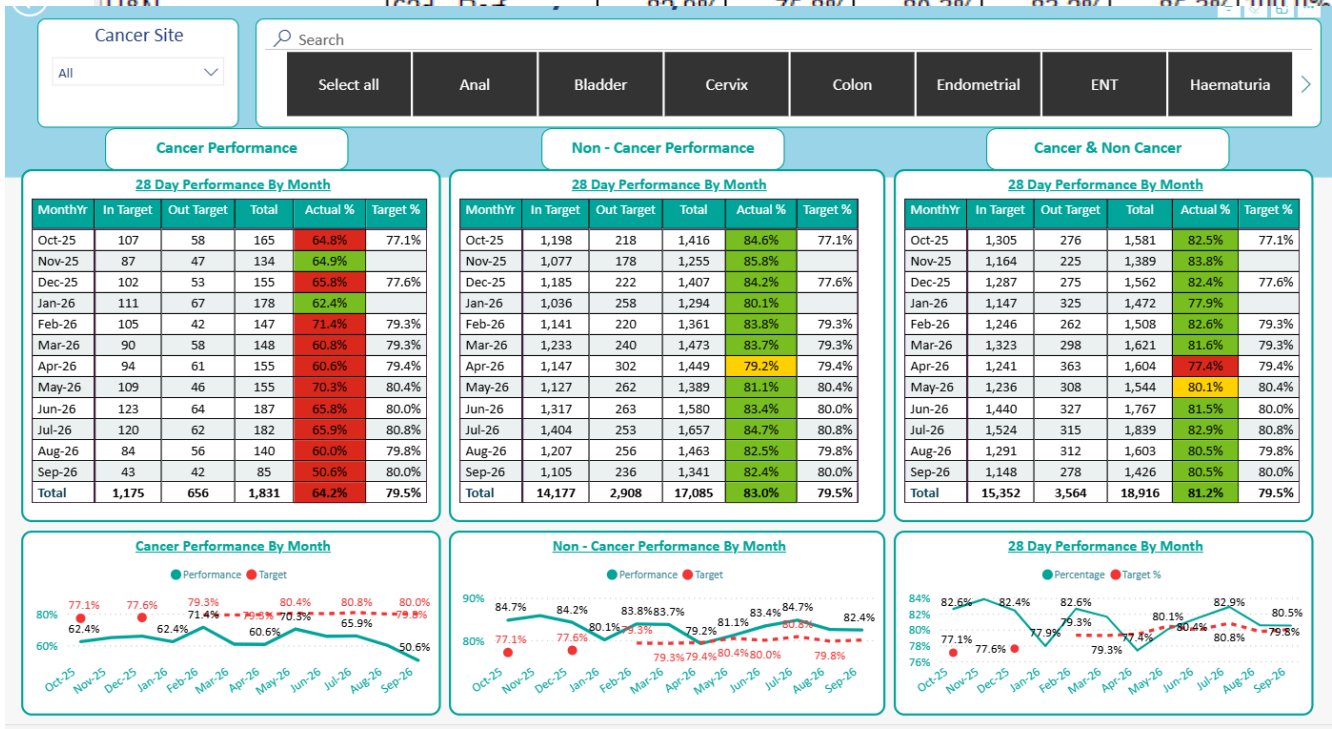
PATIENT — Understand what happened to the person

Different tumour sites affect 28- and 62-day performance differently.
Data tells us where to look. The patient tells us what needs to change.

Cancer Performance Published Plans 2026-27

		Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26
Trust Total	FDS 28d - Perf	80.01%	81.24%	80.75%	81.68%	80.50%
Colorectal	FDS 28d - Perf	80.2%	81.8%	81.5%	81.0%	80.3%
Gynaecology	FDS 28d - Perf	84.2%	84.6%	80.9%	85.0%	86.7%
Haematology	FDS 28d - Perf	46.2%	66.7%	83.3%	76.2%	68.8%
ENT	FDS 28d - Perf	80.6%	81.5%	80.8%	82.1%	81.2%
Max Fax	FDS 28d - Perf	81.5%	81.1%	82.6%	82.9%	81.4%
H&N	FDS 28d - Perf	81.1%	81.3%	81.8%	82.5%	81.3%
Lung	FDS 28d - Perf	85.9%	86.7%	81.2%	81.6%	81.1%

		Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	
Trust Total	62d - Perf	77.27%	74.72%	78.16%	75.09%	76.26%	86.4%
Colorectal	62d - Perf	60.3%	59.4%	68.2%	58.3%	57.0%	80.8%
Gynaecology	62d - Perf	82.9%	59.7%	80.2%	88.2%	86.8%	100.0%
Haematology	62d - Perf	87.9%	92.8%	89.1%	81.4%	78.9%	63.7%
ENT	62d - Perf	69.9%	69.7%	80.6%	73.7%	85.8%	81.7%
Max Fax	62d - Perf	89.0%	78.9%	80.0%	86.9%	85.0%	73.4%
							84.6%



28 Day Performance By Month

MonthYr	In Target	Out Target	Total	Actual %	Target %
Oct-25	107	58	165	64.8%	77.1%
Nov-25	87	47	134	64.9%	
Dec-25	102	53	155	65.8%	77.6%
Jan-26	111	67	178	62.4%	
Feb-26	105	42	147	71.4%	79.3%
Mar-26	90	58	148	60.8%	79.3%
Apr-26	94	61	155	60.6%	79.4%
May-26	109	46	155	70.3%	80.4%
Jun-26	123	64	187	65.8%	80.0%
Jul-26	120	62	182	65.9%	80.8%
Aug-26	84	56	140	60.0%	79.8%
Sep-26	43	42	85	50.6%	80.0%
Total	**1,175**	**656**	**1,831**	**64.2%**	**79.5%**

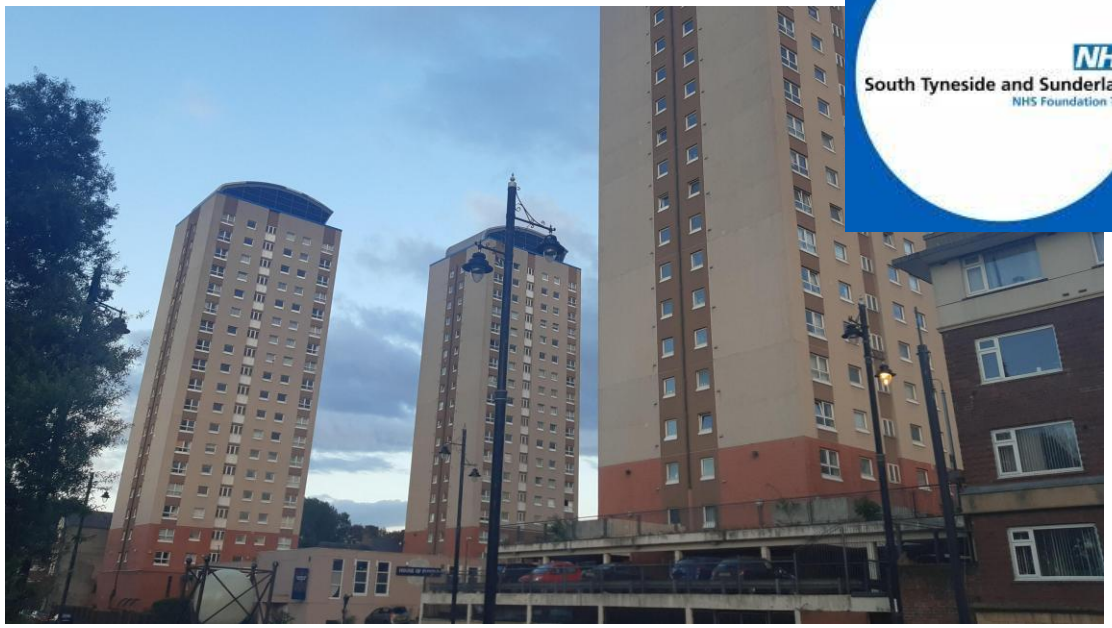
28 Day Performance By Month

MonthYr	In Target	Out Target	Total	Actual %	Target %
Oct-25	1,198	218	1,416	84.6%	77.1%
Nov-25	1,077	178	1,255	85.8%	
Dec-25	1,185	222	1,407	84.2%	77.6%
Jan-26	1,036	258	1,294	80.1%	
Feb-26	1,141	220	1,361	83.8%	79.3%
Mar-26	1,233	240	1,473	83.7%	79.3%
Apr-26	1,147	302	1,449	79.2%	79.4%
May-26	1,127	262	1,389	81.1%	80.4%
Jun-26	1,317	263	1,580	83.4%	80.0%
Jul-26	1,404	253	1,657	84.7%	80.8%
Aug-26	1,207	256	1,463	82.5%	79.8%
Sep-26	1,105	236	1,341	82.4%	80.0%
Total	**14,177**	**2,908**	**17,085**	**83.0%**	**79.5%**

28 Day Performance By Month

MonthYr	In Target	Out Target	Total	Actual %	Target %
Oct-25	1,305	276	1,581	82.5%	77.1%
Nov-25	1,164	225	1,389	83.8%	
Dec-25	1,287	275	1,562	82.4%	77.6%
Jan-26	1,147	325	1,472	77.9%	
Feb-26	1,246	262	1,508	82.6%	79.3%
Mar-26	1,323	298	1,621	81.6%	79.3%
Apr-26	1,241	363	1,604	77.4%	79.4%
May-26	1,236	308	1,544	80.1%	80.4%
Jun-26	1,440	327	1,767	81.5%	80.0%
Jul-26	1,524	315	1,839	82.9%	80.8%
Aug-26	1,291	312	1,603	80.5%	79.8%
Sep-26	1,148	278	1,426	80.5%	80.0%
Total	**15,352**	**3,564**	**18,916**	**81.2%**	**79.5%**

See the patient behind the number



Our context matters

High cancer burden
High deprivation

Complex, high-volume pathways
No breast or skin pathways in our portfolio

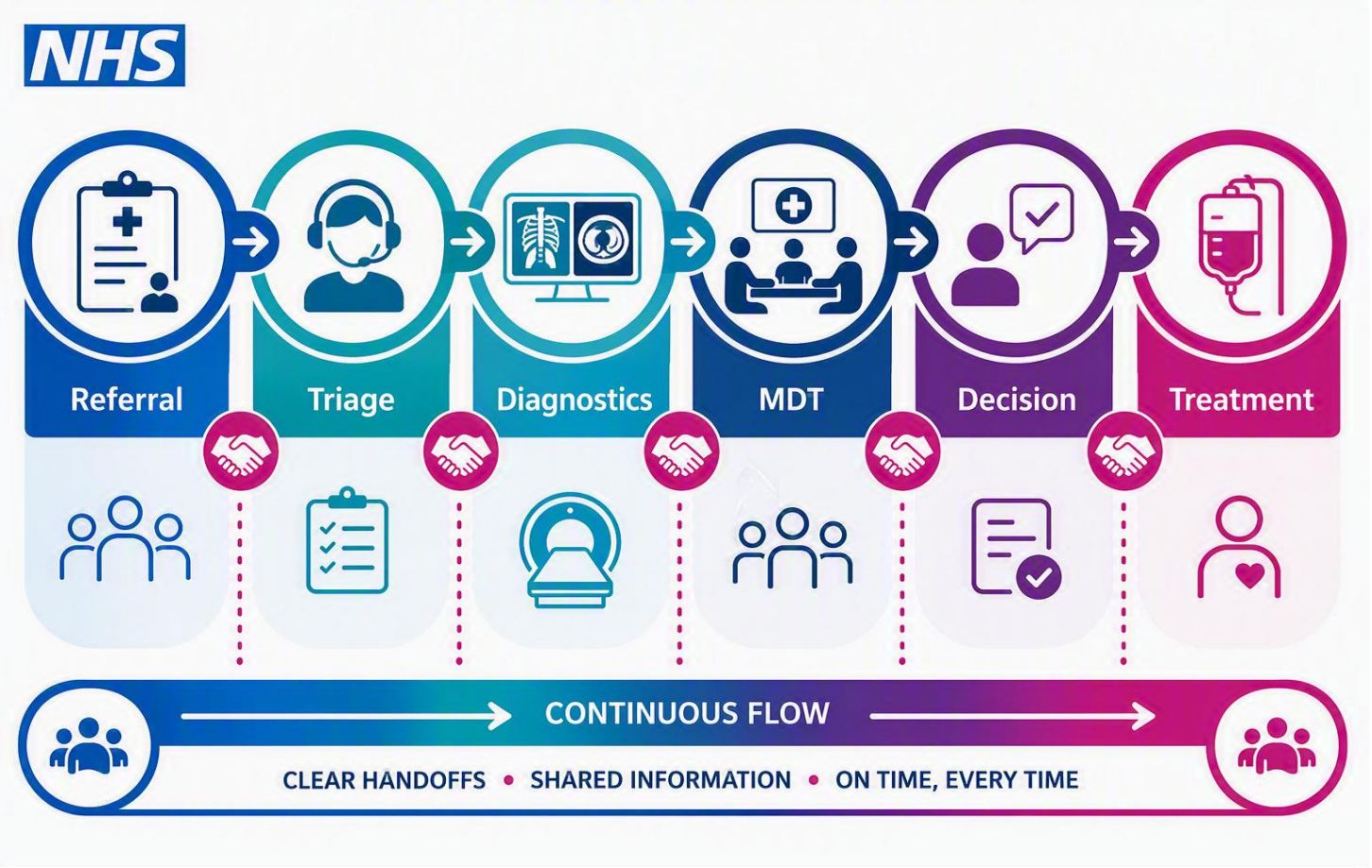
Every patient should understand:

What is happening • What happens next • Who to contact

Embedded navigators + Cancer Care Coordinators
Co-design + clear, inclusive communication

A fast pathway only works if patients can access, understand and navigate it.

Redesign the pathway around value



Keep what adds value

Remove what does not

Then tighten the hidden waits between the visible steps.

Referral → triage
Diagnostics → review
MDT → decision
Decision → communication
Communication → treatment

The patient experiences one pathway, not our organisational boundaries.

28 days and 62 days are different challenges

28-DAY FDS

Get to an answer quickly

Front-door access and referral quality
Triage and straight-to-test
Diagnostic sequencing and reporting
Timely communication of diagnosis / no cancer

62-DAY

Maintain momentum to treatment

Everything required for 28 days, plus:
Staging and MDT
Clinical decision-making
Transfers and hand-offs
Treatment planning and capacity

28 days is largely about getting to an answer. 62 days is about sustaining flow through greater complexity to treatment.

What we think makes performance sustainable

1	**Understand the numbers**	Know the tumour sites and the impact of each pathway on each standard
2	**Understand your context**	Population need and case mix change the challenge
3	**See the patient behind the number**	Co-design, navigation, Cancer Care Coordinators and clear communication
4	**Redesign around value**	Remove unnecessary steps and tighten the hidden waits between them
5	**Match the grip to the standard**	28 days and 62 days require different operational responses

The data tells us where to look. Our patients tell us what needs to change.