

CYANS Network

Annual Report

2024/25

Lead Clinician: Vacant (was Dr Adrian Sie until 31/12/24)

Programme Manager: Shelley Heatlie

Programme Support Officer: Leanne Baxter-Ramsay

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Introduction

The Children and Young People's Allergy Network Scotland (CYANS) was initially established in 2011 as a 2-year network project before being designated as a National Managed Clinical Network (NMCN) in 2013.

A review of the network was undertaken in 2017. Based on evidence provided, the Expert Review Group (ERG) noted that prevalence of severe allergy in children and young people was increasing and was continuing to grow, with food allergy in particular becoming more persistent past the age of five years. This also concluded that the network scope was too broad to enable tangible improvement in allergy services and patient outcomes across the whole spectrum.

Since then, the network reviewed their scope and through the findings of a needs assessment, concluded that in order to maximise effectiveness, the focus of the network would be re-prioritised to children and young people from birth to 19 years with an initial focus on anaphylaxis and type 1 food allergy.

Current Position

The network Clinical Lead Dr Adrian Sie resigned as at 31st December 2024. Interim leadership arrangements have been in place since then, ensuring continuity of activity while formal recruitment is aligned with national review outcomes. In light of the ongoing Scottish Government review of national networks, planning has been adapted to focus on core priorities and ensure continuity of essential services prioritising three actions for completion by the end of March 2025 while continuing their business as usual activity in the 2024/25 workplan.

The actions prioritised for CYANS were:

Priority Action	Progress
The network will engage with CYP and their families/ carers to understand what is important to them and ensure that this is reflected in the annual and strategic workplan	A stakeholder survey was designed and circulated to capture priorities for improvement to inform the planning event. Responses were received from 20 clinicians and 5 patients/ families and this has been analysed.
The network will develop a strategic workplan to outline priority areas for development for 2024-2028	This work was not progressed as the Strategic planning day did not take place in the reporting period. Therefore, updated Network work priorities were not established for this patient group. We await further guidance to inform future strategic development and this item has therefore been paused.

Develop and implement an action plan for creating and managing resources that add value to stakeholders for allergy care in Scotland	CYANS had been working with NHS Inform to look at hosting the information developed on their platform but due to governance issues that has been paused. The updated content for leaflets has been developed and ratified by the steering group and an alternative plan for making them available will be agreed with the steering group in the meantime. The website has had administrative review and discussion to take place with steering group re review of clinical information. A table of resources is being updated.
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All business as usual objectives on the 2024/25 workplan were completed.

The network continued to make use of technology and remote communications to progress work this year. This has continued to be effective, saving time on travel and promoting economic and climate friendly practices.

Highlights

Stakeholder survey – strategic planning

In order to gather information on key strategic planning areas the network should focus on, a scoping survey was sent out to all stakeholders. There were 20 responses. Respondents represented NHS Ayrshire and Arran, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Lothian, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Fife, NHS Grampian, NHS Highland, NHS Tayside and third sector representation. Professions respondents represented can be seen in table 1 below.

Allergy Specialist Nurse	1
Allergy Nurse	3
School Nurse	1
Consultant Paediatrician	8
Clinical Lead	1
Speciality Dr	1
ST7 Paediatric Trainee	1
Staff Nurse	1
Paediatric Dietitian	2

Table 1- Professions of survey respondents.

Respondents were asked to identify what currently works well within paediatric allergy services, what are the key challenges and to highlight three improvements that they believe will add most value to allergy services and this group of children. A summary of these responses can be found in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1 – Results from strategic planning day survey

In addition, the network also produced and circulated a parent/families stakeholder survey in a bid to understand what their priorities are. The network received 5 responses in total from patients/parents and families within NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Borders and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. 2 of the respondents were from a young person living with allergy, alongside 3 respondents that were parents/carers of children and young people with allergy. A summary of responses can be found in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2 – Results from parent/young people's strategic planning day survey

This item is currently ongoing by the network with progress being made to secure a date for the strategic planning day.

Lecture Series

The network has successfully delivered high quality primary and secondary care allergy education and training, through four individual online lectures. Each lecture, as listed below, was delivered by a reputable professional working within allergy care in the UK in April and May 2024.

- Lecture 1, Adrenaline prescribing in Primary Care and an introduction to the new extended role framework for GPs in allergy
- Lecture 2, Keeping children with food allergies safe in schools - the allergy emergency bag project
- Lecture 3, Psychological input for children with food allergy: results of a national survey and reflections from clinical practice
- Lecture 4, Food Allergy Diagnosis for Primary Care and General Paediatricians

The overall feedback from the on-line-lectures' series shows **100%** of respondents '**agreed**' or '**strongly agreed**' their learning objectives were met.

Based on the combined scores across the four individual lectures, the median score for 'content' that received a score of 4 or 5 out of 5 (5 = Excellent) was **85%**.

The median score for 'delivery' that received a score of 4 or 5 out of 5 (5 = Excellent) was **93%**.

100% of respondents stated their learning from this education event will change their practice, through improved knowledge, sharing knowledge and increased confidence regarding appropriate referrals / health reviews or assessments.

As these events were held virtually, and later placed on the website, these are accessible to a larger audience than if held face to face and also supports NSS/NHS Scotland climate and financial sustainability goals.

The recordings are available on the CYANS website from 1 July 2024. This will allow anyone who was unable to attend or has interest in allergy to view these in their own time. These have been promoted via CYANS stakeholders with views monitored to help inform future training.

Patient Information Leaflets

The network reviewed and updated its existing patient information leaflets. It was hoped that the updated leaflets could be uploaded onto the NHS Inform platform. As NHS Inform is seen as a recognised and trusted source of information for patients and their families, this is considered a valuable resource to help signpost patients and their families. As of March 2025, the current position is that final agreement between NSD and NHS Inform remains outstanding in relation to difficulties agreeing a memorandum of understanding. This item continues to remain on the current CYANS workplan and discussion will take place at the next steering group meeting in August 2025 to agree a way forwards for this.

Looking forward – 2025/26

Due to ongoing review of national networks, networks have only been asked to plan business as usual activity for Quarter 1, 2025/26.

Finance

The network operated within its allocated budget in 2024/25, focusing on low-cost, high-impact activities such as virtual education and digital resource development.

Risks & Issues

The network recognises the importance of maintaining national coordination in areas such as education, clinical guidance, and quality improvement. Continued support will be essential to sustain these benefits for patients and professionals.