



yorkshire's
brain tumour
charity!

IMPACT REPORT

2024-2025



IMPACT REPORT

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OUR STRATEGY AT YBTC

Our Mission

To **improve the lives of people impacted by a brain tumour in Yorkshire** through **local support and research**. YBTC focuses on delivering person-centred support services and funding early-stage brain tumour research locally.

Our Strategy

The charity operates through skill-based teams (**research, support, publicity/fundraising, and infrastructure**) and is expanding its reach across North, South, and East Yorkshire. It also plans to increase collaboration with NHS and national organisations, while staying focused on local service delivery. **YBTC's strategic plan for 2024–2027 is built around four core goals:**

Invest in Local Research

Support innovative early-stage brain tumour research to improve health outcomes in Yorkshire.

Increase Visibility and Funding

Raise awareness of the charity's work to secure sustainable fundraising and engage more of the Yorkshire community.

Deliver Community-Focused Support

Expand and enhance services that meet the emotional, practical, and social needs of people affected by brain tumours.

Strengthen Infrastructure

Build effective systems, skilled teams, and collaborative governance to support long-term growth and impact.

Our Values

Our values are the foundation of everything we do—they guide how we support individuals affected by brain tumours, **how we work with partners, and how we make decisions as a charity**. They ensure we remain compassionate, transparent, and focused on the real needs of our community, while striving to grow and improve our impact across Yorkshire.



Integrity



Compassion



Ambition



Community

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1.



FOREWARD

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR AND CEO

YBTC- CELEBRATING 21 YEARS OF CHANGING LIVES

As we reflect on **21 years of Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity**, 2024 stands out as a truly transformative chapter, a year that honoured our roots while laying bold foundations for the future.

We began this milestone anniversary year with an ambitious plan to host **21 community fundraising events**. Thanks to the unwavering support of our incredible community, we didn't just meet that target, we more than doubled it, delivering **48 events and reaching an astounding 39,000 people**. This unprecedented level of engagement not only raised vital funds, but significantly increased awareness of brain tumours and the services we offer across the region.

2024 also saw us deliver a **186% increase in support contacts and a 150% increase in our face-to-face peer support groups**, expanding access for patients, carers, and families across Yorkshire. Alongside our in-person and online groups, our support services now include **wellbeing walks, hardship grants, 1-to-1 peer connections, benefits advice, and email and telephone support**. All our support services focus on helping people feel heard, informed, and less alone at every stage of their journey.



Our Chair, Simon Thomson



Our CEO, David Grant-Roberts

Behind all this impact is a deep belief in the **power of co-production**. This year, we embedded meaningful participation throughout the charity: from our **Ambassador and Advisory Groups, to four monthly speciality teams uniting trustees, staff and volunteers**. We introduced **quarterly feedback surveys and hosted a whole-team event dedicated to listening and learning**. This collaborative approach ensures that the voice of lived experience is at the heart of every decision we make.

We are equally proud of the progress made in our research efforts. While treatments for brain tumours have changed little in 40 years, our investment in next-generation research continues. **In 2024 we funded four exciting projects**, and in 2025 we look forward to implementing our new research strategy, with a clear focus on pump-priming grants to help unlock major national funding for innovative ideas.

As Chair and CEO, we would like to thank every staff member, volunteer, ambassador, donor and supporter who made 2024 such an inspiring year. Together, you've helped us change lives. Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, we remain deeply committed to extending the reach of our services and ensuring that no one in Yorkshire faces a brain tumour alone. With your continuing support, we're excited for what's to come.

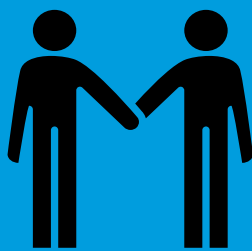

Simon Thomson
Chair of Trustees


David Grant-Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

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OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

150% increase in
Peer Support
Groups, 714
individual
attendances



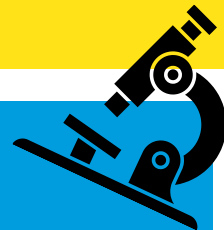
28 financial
support grants



100%
improved
economic
& mental
health

2245
Support
Contacts,
a 186%
increase

Over £1m in
research
since charity
incorporation



£23,000
towards
research in
2024
4 different
research
projects in
Leeds, Hull &
Sheffield

£1600 of
craft
materials for
paediatric
patients



CELEBRATING
21 YEARS OF

2945 contacts with
charity supporters, a
273% increase

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291 Social Media posts,
5701 website 'sessions',
7 broadcast interviews

PEER SUPPORT AT

YBTC

A 'HAND IN THE DARK' FOR THOSE IMPACTED BY BRAIN TUMOURS

We are the region's very own brain tumour charity, we offer specialist and local support to everyone in Yorkshire affected by any type of brain tumour. Around 11,000 new cases of primary brain tumours are diagnosed in the UK every year. An average of 15 of these each week are in Yorkshire. For all those families whose lives have been suddenly turned upside down by a diagnosis, we are here!

This year, we have seen

186%

increase in support contacts

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Receiving a brain tumour diagnosis — or supporting a loved one through it — can be an incredibly isolating and overwhelming experience.

At YBTC, we believe that **nobody should face this journey alone**. Our peer support groups provide **welcoming, inclusive spaces** for people to connect with others who genuinely understand what they are going through.

These groups are more than just a meeting — they **offer emotional reassurance, practical advice, and a sense of solidarity that is often hard to find elsewhere**. Shared experiences build resilience, helping individuals feel heard, supported, and less alone.

In 2024, we delivered a **150% increase in group provision** compared to the previous year — a clear marker of our commitment to reach more people across the region.

Our support groups are **volunteer-led and supported by our staff team, with volunteers receiving training and ongoing guidance**. Their passion and lived experience are at the heart of what makes these groups so impactful.

As we look to the future, we remain committed to expanding and strengthening our peer support offer — ensuring that everyone affected by a brain tumour in Yorkshire has access to compassionate, local support when they need it most.

100%

of people who attended our groups felt more supported and more connected

94%

said they had learned practical tips to help with the diagnosis.

MARTIN'S STORY

CASE STUDY

“IT’S NOT JUST SUPPORT – IT’S CONNECTION”

When I had my first dizzy spell back in March 2020, I had no idea that it was the start of something life-changing.

I was teaching a classroom of students when I suddenly felt unsteady. I sat down, had some water, and pushed through the lesson – thinking maybe I was just run down. But by that evening, the dizzy spells returned. What followed was a rapid series of hospital visits, scans, and – eventually – the words I’ll never forget: **“We think you have a brain tumour.”**

Since then, it’s been a long journey. I’ve had two major brain surgeries – the first in Brighton in 2020, and the second in Leeds in 2022. The tumour was confirmed as a Grade 2 astrocytoma, which has meant ongoing scans, recovery, and adapting to a new version of daily life.



“A COMMUNITY THAT GENUINELY UNDERSTANDS”

At first, I was told it was benign. Later, I was told it was a slow-growing cancer.

That shift in understanding affected me deeply.

But amid the medical appointments and uncertainty, **I found something unexpected – a community that genuinely understands.**

After moving to West Yorkshire, I started attending the Huddersfield Support Group run by Yorkshire’s Brain Tumour Charity. I can honestly say it’s one of the most important things I’ve done for my wellbeing. In that room, you don’t have to explain everything. People just get it. **Whether it’s physical symptoms, fatigue, MRI anxiety or just trying to live well with a diagnosis hanging over your head – the group offers connection, honesty and sometimes a bit of much-needed humour. It’s been a safe place for me to talk about things I can’t always say elsewhere.**

I’ve also learned **practical things from others – things you wouldn’t hear at a hospital appointment.** One group member told me that many people with a brain tumour are entitled to a free bus pass. That kind of tip might seem small, but it makes a real difference when you’re managing both health and finances.

YBTC has given me more than information – it’s given me a sense of belonging, of not being alone in this. My tumour is still being treated, and I have an upcoming procedure this year. But whatever happens, I know there’s a group of people who understand, who’ll listen, and who’ll be there.



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FINANCIAL SUPPORT AT YBTC

WE BELIEVE THAT NO ONE SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR HEALTH AND THEIR FINANCIAL STABILITY.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND WELFARE ADVICE

A brain tumour diagnosis can have a profound **emotional and physical impact** — and often brings significant financial strain. From travel to treatment, loss of income to increased living costs, families are frequently left facing mounting pressures at an already difficult time.

At YBTC, we believe that no one should have to choose between their health and their financial stability. That's why we offer both practical financial assistance and welfare advice, helping to reduce stress and allow people to focus on what matters most.

In 2024, we awarded 28 financial hardship grants thanks to support from Leeds Community Foundation, along with One Community Foundation Kirklees, and Leeds Convalescent Society. These grants helped cover essentials such as food, utilities, and housing costs. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive — **100% of survey respondents reported an improvement in their economic wellbeing, and the same number noted an improvement in their mental health as a result of receiving a grant.**

“When Tony was diagnosed, everything changed overnight. we were thrown into a whirlwind of hospital appointments, surgery, and uncertainty. the financial support from YBTC helped us breathe — it gave us one less thing to worry about during the hardest time of our lives.”



**28 financial
hardship grants
given in 2024**

100%
of recipients
reported
improvement in
economic wellbeing
and mental health

Alongside financial assistance, we provide **specialist one-to-one benefits advice through our Support Services Lead**. Patients and relatives are supported with applications for new benefits, amendments to existing entitlements, and help with complex forms. For those requiring additional support, we signpost to trusted local and national services, including council schemes and other charities.

To strengthen this offer, we've developed an internal directory of welfare and community services across Yorkshire and the Humber — making it easier to connect people with the support available where they live. Together, our financial and welfare services provide a vital safety net for those affected by brain tumours — reducing anxiety, improving wellbeing, and helping people feel supported every step of the way.

CONNECTION THROUGH SUPPORT AT YBTC

WELLBEING WALKS

CONNECTION IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

We know that a brain tumour diagnosis affects more than just physical health — it impacts every part of a person's wellbeing. Our Wellbeing Walks offer a gentle, accessible way for people to experience fresh air, movement, and meaningful social connection.

In 2024, 48 people joined us on walks across the region, finding moments of calm and camaraderie in nature. With each step, people found a safe space to talk, share, or simply be present with others who understand. These walks continue to grow in popularity — and in impact.



"It is good to spend time with people who have similar medical backgrounds in a natural environment. Participants all have their own story to tell and share them in a positive way with others."



"I am so, so grateful to have people like you, that I can pick up the phone and let off some emotion with so I can get on with being a mum, wife and nurse and not feel like I'm putting onto my direct family. It allows me to not just survive, but to be happy"

ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

A LISTENING EAR WHEN IT'S NEEDED MOST

Every journey is different — and sometimes, what makes the biggest difference is knowing someone is there, just for you. In 2024, we provided 1-to-1 wellbeing calls and peer support from trained volunteers with lived experience, offering people personalised space to talk, reflect, and feel supported.

We also trained four volunteer peer supporters and four staff members through Health Education England. In partnership with The Brain Tumour Charity, we now offer direct referrals to structured counselling for those who need more in-depth support — ensuring no one falls through the gaps.

CRAFTS, TOYS & REFRESHMENTS

SMALL ACTS OF COMFORT, BIG IMPACT

Hospital stays can be frightening and exhausting for children and their families. That's why we funded £1,600 in craft materials and refreshments on a paediatric brain tumour ward in 2024.

A simple craft, a warm drink, or a small treat can bring moments of joy and normality — especially during long, emotional days on the ward. These gestures may seem small, but they create an environment where children and families feel cared for and comforted.



"The crafts gave my child something to smile about. It brought colour into the greyest days."

A COMMUNITY

BUILT ON COLLABORATION

BUILDING CONNECTIONS TO FOSTER VOICE, VALUE AND ACTION

At YBTC, our greatest strength lies in the people who shape, deliver and inspire everything we do. Whether it's those who use our services, volunteer their time, or help steer our direction — our community is at the heart of our success.

CO-PRODUCTION IN ACTION

In 2024, we deepened our commitment to working with, not for, those affected by brain tumours. Through **quarterly surveys with our Ambassadors, volunteers and beneficiaries**, we created space for genuine feedback and influence. **Our four specialist teams, made up of staff, trustees and Ambassadors, meet monthly to guide decisions and priorities**, ensuring the voice of lived experience is consistently represented at every level. Our Ambassador and Advisory Groups play an essential role in shaping our services and strategies, while our whole-team feedback event created a rare opportunity to bring together diverse voices for open dialogue and shared learning. A highlight of our co-production work in 2024 was our collaboration with **Huddersfield University, our CEO and YBTC Ambassadors, Andy and Heather**. Together, we developed a powerful video sharing their experiences of being diagnosed with a brain tumour, and the importance of raising awareness, increased research, compassionate support and better patient communication.



**WATCH NOW BY VISITING
"YORKSHIRE BRAIN TUMOUR
CHARITY (INTERVIEWS)" ON
YOUTUBE**

**"It's rare to feel truly
heard. YBTC don't just
listen — they act on what
we say."**



VOLUNTEERS: THE HEART OF YBTC

In 2024, **38 dedicated volunteers supported our work across Yorkshire**, contributing their time and energy in a range of roles — from hosting support groups and helping at events, to providing admin, maintenance and fundraising support. Their dedication allows us to reach further and support more people, every single day.

We are proud to support our volunteers with training and guidance, and deeply value the experience and compassion they bring — many of them drawing from personal journeys of their own.

DEBBIE'S STORY

CASE STUDY

"I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY WITHOUT YBTC...IT MEANS SO MUCH TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK"

Hi, I'm Debbie, I'm 48 and married to my amazing husband Mark. In early 2021, I lost my dad suddenly to a heart attack. Just a few months later, in July, we went on holiday – but I felt awful the entire time. I had constant headaches, no energy, ringing in my ears... **something didn't feel right.**

I phoned in sick from work thinking it would pass, but it didn't. Week after week, I told the GP about my symptoms – headaches, dizziness, flickering eyelid, ear-ringing – but they said it was grief and depression. I was prescribed antidepressants, but I refused to take them. I just knew it wasn't that. Eventually, a nurse practitioner suggested it could be my eyes, so I booked an eye test. The optician was amazing – after checking the pressure in my eyes and taking photos, he sat me down and told me: **"There's too much pressure in your head. You need to go to the eye clinic urgently."**

At the eye clinic, they found optic nerve oedema and booked me in for an urgent MRI. I was terrified. I went to the mobile scanner at Pinderfields, and due to Covid, Mark had to wait outside. After the scan, several doctors were waiting. **They told me I had a brain tumour and needed emergency surgery at Leeds General Infirmary.** I was in complete shock.



"Coming to the drop-in sessions and chatting with others going through the same thing makes a massive difference. The support is second to none."

I FELT OVERWHELMED TRYING TO PROCESS WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

After further scans, I was admitted. My surgery was delayed by two days due to other emergencies – and I wasn't allowed visitors due to Covid – but I was lucky to be beside another patient going through something similar. We supported each other and we're still friends now, 3.5 years on.

The operation lasted over 10 hours. When I woke up, I was talking non-stop! But the next day, reality hit. I couldn't walk unaided, felt sick and disoriented, and had weakness down my left side. When I was discharged, I could barely manage daily tasks – even signing my name or picking up a pen felt impossible. My eyesight was poor, I couldn't concentrate, and I felt overwhelmed trying to process what had happened.

That's when I came across a leaflet for Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity in the hospital. I wasn't being paid at the time, and the leaflet mentioned financial support and drop-in groups. I reached out – and it turned out to be the best decision I've ever made.

The team at YBTC supported me emotionally and practically through the darkest time in my life. At my first Wellbeing Walk, I only managed a few steps before I had to sit down and go back – but I was determined to rebuild my strength. With the go-ahead from my consultant, I began doing small exercises in my home gym and gradually increased my training with the help of a strength coach. Over time, I got stronger. I returned to work on a phased basis four months after surgery, and within six or seven months, I was back full-time in the office.

I CHERISH EVERY MOMENT AND MAKE MEMORIES WHEREVER I CAN

Now, I do strength training three times a week and have even completed two novice Strongwoman competitions. I volunteer to run the Farsley Peer Support Group alongside my husband and help with the Wellbeing Walks. I'm proud to be an Ambassador for YBTC – it means so much to be able to give something back.

This charity has truly changed my life. **Without the support from YBTC – the team, the walks, the peer groups – I genuinely don't think I'd be where I am today.** I still have MRI scans every six months due to the grade and histology of my tumour, and waiting for results never gets easier. But coming to the drop-in sessions and chatting with others going through the same thing makes a massive difference. The support is second to none.

I see life differently now. I cherish every moment and make memories wherever I can – because I know how precious life really is.

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RESEARCH AT

YBTC



DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH RESEARCH

Since 2011 we have funded over £1 million in clinical research.

Brain tumours remain one of the most devastating cancer diagnoses. They are the biggest cancer killer of children and adults under 40, and yet, less than 3% of the UK's cancer research funding is allocated to this area. For many patients and their families, treatment options have barely changed in over four decades, and prognosis remains poor — particularly for aggressive types like glioblastoma, where average survival is just 12–15 months. That's why, at YBTC, we are committed to funding research that gives hope — not just for better treatments, but for breakthroughs that can change lives.

we have invested over
£1 million
in research since our charity began!



OUR ROLE IN THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY

We are proud to be a member charity of Brain Tumour Research, collaborating with other organisations across the UK to drive progress. Our team meets biannually with fellow member charities, sharing insights, updates, and emerging science from across the country.

This collaborative network strengthens our strategic decision-making and ensures that the funding we award is focused where it can have the greatest long-term impact.

OUR COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CHARITY PARTNERS

Our partnership with Brain Tumour Research began in 2004 with the United Brain Tumour Campaign, driven by personal experiences and a shared aim to address the lack of research funding. Together, our collective voice strengthens campaigning and supports the development of world-class Research Centres of Excellence. Fellow Member Charities include **Ali's Dream, Anna's Hope, Annie's Challenge, Astro Brain Tumour Fund, Blue Skye Thinking, Braintrust, Brain Tumour Research Campaign, Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre, In Sue's Name, Levi's Star, Finnbar's Force, and others** — all working toward better outcomes and a cure.

RESEARCH- WHAT WE FUNDED IN 2024

DRIVING PROGRESS THROUGH RESEARCH

In 2024, we invested £22,985 into four cutting-edge research projects across Yorkshire. This included funding for both infrastructure and personnel, from PhD students to postdoctoral researchers and tissue bank managers.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT- UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD – DISSECTING GLIOBLASTOMA

At the University of Sheffield, YBTC part-funded PhD student Kelsey Wosnotzka, whose project is using surgically-guided sampling to better understand the internal complexity of glioblastoma — the most aggressive type of brain tumour. Kelsey has already:

GENERATED OVER 12 CELL MODELS FROM PATIENT TUMOURS

CREATED SPATIALLY REGISTERED TUMOUR MODELS, ALLOWING RESEARCHERS TO MAP TUMOUR SAMPLES TO PRECISE MRI LOCATIONS

IDENTIFIED KEY DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE SAME TUMOUR, HELPING EXPLAIN WHY SOME AREAS RESPOND TO TREATMENT AND OTHERS DON'T

Kelsey's research was well-received at the University of Sheffield Research Day and showcased at the British Neuro-Oncology Society. Her findings are laying the groundwork for tailored treatments and future clinical trials, with publications expected in the coming year.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT- UNIVERSITY OF HULL – ADVANCING NEW THERAPIES

At the University of Hull, YBTC-funded PhD student Antonia Barry has investigated new ways to treat glioblastoma using PRMT inhibitors — drugs that selectively kill tumour cells while sparing healthy brain tissue. Antonia's achievements include:

PUBLISHING A FIRST-AUTHOR PAPER IN LAB ON A CHIP (IMPACT FACTOR 7.5)

DEMONSTRATING THAT PRMT INHIBITORS SHOW PROMISE AS A FUTURE TREATMENT PATHWAY

DEVELOPING STRONG COLLABORATIONS WITH NEUROSURGEONS TO SUPPORT CLINICAL TRANSLATION

We're proud to share that Antonia has now secured a postdoctoral fellowship at St James's Hospital in Leeds, continuing her impactful work under the supervision of Dr Lucy Stead.



SHAPING THE FUTURE

OUR NEW RESEARCH STRATEGY

OUR APPROACH TO RESEARCH- PUMP PRIMING

From 2025, YBTC will adopt a new research strategy, focusing on pump-priming grants. These small-scale investments support researchers in generating the early data needed to apply for major national funding. It's a high-impact, high-potential model that allows us to accelerate discovery and amplify our regional research capacity.

Our goal is to be a launchpad for bold ideas. By investing in promising early-stage research, we help Yorkshire's brightest minds lay the groundwork for future breakthroughs.

Samar Betmouni, Chair of YBTC Research Sub-Committee



By supporting local talent and fostering scientific innovation, we're moving closer to a future where a brain tumour diagnosis comes with real options — and real hope.

MEET THE TRUSTEE- SAMAR BETMOUNI

With a strong background in digital health innovation, education, and public engagement, Samar brings a wealth of experience to YBTC. Samar is passionate about supporting YBTC's regionally focused mission to improve outcomes for those affected by brain tumours across Yorkshire. She explains, **"I would like to support the work of YBTC to ensure that there is equitable diagnostics availability and access to all patients with suspected brain tumours, opportunities to support research in this field, and to raise the profile of brain tumours and YBTC."**

Her work spans cross-disciplinary collaboration, digital pathology, and the development of industry-university partnerships. Notable achievements include creating public exhibits with the National Science & Media Museum and producing educational content on digital pathology and AI. As a grant writer and project developer, they have successfully secured funding to advance both research and educational initiatives.

FUNDRAISING AT YBTC

RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO CHANGE LIVES

SHARING OUR MESSAGE, REACHING MORE PEOPLE

In 2024, we expanded our communications to raise awareness, grow our audience, and highlight the vital work we do across Yorkshire.

Over the year, we shared 291 social media posts, keeping our community informed, inspired, and engaged with regular updates, fundraising news, and personal stories. Our newly developed website attracted 5,701 sessions, reflecting increased public interest and making it easier for people to find support, donate, or get involved.

We also raised our regional profile through 7 broadcast interviews on TV and radio, helping to shine a spotlight on the realities of living with a brain tumour and the difference YBTC is making every day.

These efforts are helping us reach more people than ever before — ensuring that those who need us can find us, and that brain tumours stay firmly on the public agenda.

COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

It's been a hugely positive year for Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity (YBTC), with big steps forward in events, supporter engagement, and corporate partnerships. On top of that,

**OVER 39,000
PEOPLE ATTENDED**

**48 FUNDRAISING
EVENTS.**

**WE HAD 2,955
DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH
SUPPORTERS,
A 273%
INCREASE**

**WE WERE
PROUD TO BE
CHOSEN AS
CHARITY OF THE
YEAR BY 7
ORGANISATIONS.**

These milestones are a real sign of growing momentum and support for YBTC's mission across Yorkshire.

THE BENEFITS OF WORKING ALONGSIDE CARING CORPORATES

Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity (YBTC) has been grateful to work closely with volunteers from local businesses, who contributed their time and skills to support people affected by brain tumours across Yorkshire. Volunteer Charlotte Waite said, "YBTC have a really interesting approach to offering strong local support while funding research that could have a global impact." Reflecting on her own family's experience, she added, "Brain tumours affect people not just medically but emotionally and financially too. The work YBTC does to support patients now and fund research for the future is really important and rewarding."



REMEMBERING ANDY

CHARLINE'S STORY

HONOURING ANDY GRIER: A FAMILY'S MISSION TO FIGHT BRAIN TUMOURS THROUGH FUNDRAISING

On Sunday, February 9th, 2025, Hull Prison staff and SLC United came together for an incredible cause—a charity football match at Haworth Park in Hull, raising vital funds for Yorkshire's Brain Tumour Charity (YBTC). This event, driven by the passion and dedication of Charline Grier, her family, and a supportive community, was held in memory of her father, Andy Grier, a beloved colleague, husband, father, and friend.

MY DAD WAS THE CENTRE OF OUR FAMILY

Andy Grier was a well-respected member of the Hull community. Born and raised in Hull, he dedicated over 30 years of his life to working at Hull Prison. After his retirement, Andy received a devastating diagnosis—a grade four glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. His daughter, Charline, described the impact of his illness on their close-knit family:

"My dad was the centre of our family. He was strong, active, and full of life—always walking, playing squash, and keeping busy. When he was diagnosed, everything changed overnight. He went downhill really rapidly, and we lost him just four months later. It left a massive void in our lives."

Despite their grief, Charline and her family channelled their experiences into purpose, working tirelessly to support YBTC and help other families affected by brain tumours.

WE'VE DONE SO MUCH TO KEEP DAD'S MEMORY ALIVE AND HELP OTHERS

The charity football match was one of many fundraising efforts organised by Andy's family and friends. Prison officers and SLC United (Supporting Local Causes) came together to play in his honour, raising an impressive £615 on the day. But this was just one piece of a much larger fundraising movement led by Charline and her loved ones.

"We've done so much to keep Dad's memory alive and to help others," Charline shared. "My son, Toby, held a Crazy Hat Day at school, I completed a swimming challenge where I swam a mile every day for a month, and a big group of staff from the prison took on the Yorkshire Three Peaks. My dad's friend, Mel, even ran the Leeds Marathon! Everyone has done something to contribute."

For Charline and her family, fundraising isn't just about honouring Andy's memory—it's about driving change for brain tumour patients across Yorkshire.

Charline told the team at YBTC: "Brain tumours are so common, yet treatment options haven't changed in 40 years. The treatments are still brutal. We need to push for more research and better options," Charline emphasised.

"YBTC was amazing when Dad was diagnosed, and we want to keep supporting them every year."

With continued fundraising efforts, Andy's legacy will live on—not only in the hearts of those who knew him but in the lives of brain tumour patients and their families who will benefit from the funds raised in his name.

