



Meet the Team at our

**St Oswald's
Hospice**

Children and Young Adults Service



Quality time for everyone

Welcome to Our Team!

At St Oswald's Hospice Children and Young Adults Service, our friendly and dedicated multidisciplinary team are committed to providing expert medical care and quality time for the young people we care for.

We'd like to introduce you to some of the faces you may meet when you're visiting, along with information about our skills and interests, to help you get to know us a little better!

Meet Holly Matron

Holly has worked at the hospice since 2020 and was appointed Matron of the Children and Young Adults Service in 2024. She is responsible for our staff and volunteers, and the compassionate care we provide to young people.

After training as a Paediatric Nurse at Northumbria University, Holly worked at the Freeman Hospital in the Children's Heart Unit. She then moved to Neonatal Intensive Care at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, continuing this specialty in Guernsey before moving back to the North East.

Holly has also previously worked in Paediatric Assessment and was the Lead for Paediatric Resuscitation.

During her training, Holly had a placement at St Oswald's Hospice and always wanted to return.

Away from work, Holly loves running, cycling, and hiking.



"There's nowhere quite like St Oswald's Hospice! The kids and team are incredible, and I'm very lucky to be part of it."

"Anything that gets me outside and moving with my son, husband, and our dog. I also love music and going to gigs whenever I can!"



Meet Ayla

Senior Sister – Clinical



Ayla has worked at St Oswald's Hospice since 2015. Her specialist areas include Central Lines/Total Parenteral Nutrition and Peritoneal Dialysis.

She trained as a Paediatric Nurse in Glasgow before moving to Newcastle in 2012.

Ayla worked at the Royal Victoria Infirmary for 3 years before joining the hospice, where she loves providing expert clinical care to those enjoying short stays with us.



"In my free time, I enjoy baking, DIY, and going for walks and meals with my boyfriend and friends. I also travel back to Scotland regularly to spend time with my parents, sisters, nieces, and nephews."

Meet Diane

Senior Sister – Quality

Diane joined St Oswald's Hospice in 2003. Her specialist roles include Research and Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Diane trained as an Adult General Nurse but, after working on a paediatric ward in Durham, she retrained to become a Paediatric Nurse.

She joined St Oswald's Hospice when the Children's Hospice first opened its doors.. She wanted to ensure families benefited from their children and young adults coming to stay with us, after witnessing little support for them in hospitals at that time.

Diane's current role focuses on Quality Development for the service.

"I still see my role as caring and nurturing—driving quality so that children, young adults, and their families have the best experience at St Oswald's Hospice."



Meet Jess

Senior Sister – Outreach

Jess works with Becca to lead our Children & Young Adults Outreach Service, that provides nurse-led care to young people and families in their home.

Jess trained as a Paediatric Nurse at Northumbria University. After qualifying, she worked on the Special Care Baby Unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle before joining St Oswald's Hospice as a Staff Nurse in 2019.

3 years later, Jess was appointed as Senior Sister and began developing our new Outreach Service.



"I love spending time with my family and friends, doing fun things with my son, and going on holiday!"

Meet Becca

Senior Sister – Outreach

Becca leads the Outreach Service alongside Jess. She loves visiting and caring for children, young adults and their families in the comfort of their own homes.

She qualified as a nurse in 2013 and worked at Great North Children's Hospital before moving to St Oswald's Hospice in 2017.

Since 2022, Becca has worked to develop the Outreach Service, which aims to provide quality care and support to families in the community.

Becca likes spending time with family and friends, going for meals out, and walking her dog in the countryside.

"I really enjoy how we are able to get to know the children and young adults under our care, ensuring their needs are well met."



Meet Lynsey

Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Lynsey has worked at St Oswald's Hospice since 2021, and specialises in Transition and Palliative Care.

Lynsey qualified in Glasgow in 2013 and worked as an Adult Nurse before relocating to Newcastle. Her first job on Tyneside was on an Adult Surgical ward. She then worked on the Neonatal Unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Lynsey began training to be an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in February 2024.



"I am Mammy to two little girls and a cockapoo called Stanley. In my spare time, I enjoy listening to live music, spending time with family and friends, and travelling."

Meet Joy

Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Joy's expertise are in Tissue Viability and Palliative Care.

Joy worked for GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals before becoming a nurse. After qualifying in 2008, she worked on a High Dependency ward in London, as a Bank Nurse at St Oswald's Hospice, in a Health Visiting team, and in a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit in Newcastle.

She returned to St Oswald's Hospice in 2021 and began training to be an Advanced Clinical Practitioner in 2024.



"I enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, and walks on the beach."



Meet Georgia

Junior Sister and Advanced Clinical Practitioner

Georgia has worked at the hospice since 2018. Her specialist roles are Medicines Management and Medical Gases.

Before St Oswald's Hospice, Georgia worked at Great North Children's Hospital as a Staff Nurse on the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. While there, she cared for children receiving long-term care with an oncology or immunology diagnosis that was treatable with a stem cell transplant.

As a Junior Sister, Georgia supports staff and families while providing high-quality care to all children and young adults.

She is also a Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioner.

"I am passionate about developing our service to support the changing medical needs of our children and young adults."



Meet Helen

Junior Sister

Helen has worked at St Oswald's Hospice for over 20 years. She cares for our young people, sharing her in-depth knowledge of epilepsy, while also supporting students.

Helen completed her training at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London in 1998 and worked on its Respiratory ward. When she returned to her native Newcastle, she worked as a Nurse in 3 local special schools.

In her spare time, Helen loves spending time with her two sons and enjoys walks along the coast near where she lives.

"I also like to catch up with friends. They're based all over the UK, so it involves quite a lot of travel!"



Meet Michelle Junior Sister



Michelle provides a warm welcome to new starters and is responsible for inductions, education and training at the hospice.

Michelle worked for a property company for 14 years but decided she wanted a career change in her 30s and became a Student Nurse. Once qualified, she worked in Paediatric Intensive Care at the Freeman Hospital for 3 years before joining the hospice.

She started at St Oswald's Hospice in 2018 and took the role of Junior Sister in 2023.

"The things I enjoy most are spending time with my family and my two little dogs. We love taking them for long walks and adventures."



Meet Sarah Occupational Therapist



Having joined the hospice in January 2024, Sarah was delighted to be the first dedicated Occupational Therapist (OT) to be employed in the Children and Young Adults Service.

Sarah qualified as an OT in 1989 and has worked in various areas, including Adult Neurology and Community Paediatrics. She was also a Clinical Specialist OT in the Children's Community Physical Disability Team in Northumberland for 14 years.

Outside of work, Sarah enjoys time with friends, family, and her dogs.

"I also enjoy travelling, running, yoga, music – and having a good laugh!"



Meet Sylvia Physiotherapist



Sylvia qualified as a Physiotherapist in 1985. She specialised in Spinal Cord Injury and then Community Paediatrics, becoming a Northumbria Physiotherapy Service Manager.

Sylvia joined St Oswald's Hospice in 2023 and supports our children and young people with their movement to help them live their best lives.

"I am passionate about making a difference for children with disabilities."



Meet Laura Physiotherapist

Laura has worked as a Physiotherapist in paediatrics for almost 20 years. She has worked in various settings, including Education, Community, Early Intervention, and Rehabilitation.

Laura previously worked at Acorns Children's Hospice in the West Midlands before moving back to the North East. She joined St Oswald's Hospice in 2018.

Outside of work, Laura says her husband and two children keep her very busy. As a family, they enjoy listening to music and can often be found dancing around the kitchen!

"I love my job. I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to work with the children, young adults, and families who access St Oswald's Hospice. It is a wide and varied role which sometimes leads to unexpected adventures, such as adaptive surfing in the North Sea!"



Meet Kerry Activity Coordinator

Kerry began her journey at the hospice in 2017 as a Care Support Worker before joining the Activities Team.

Kerry began her career working as a Nursery Nurse and Special Needs Assistant at a school. She became a Nursery Nurse on a children's ward and studied to become a qualified Play Specialist. She now provides special moments for our young people and their families.



"I like to plan and participate in experiences and activities to enrich the lives of children and young adults who use our service, and their siblings."

Meet Sarah Activity Coordinator

Sarah has 20 years of professional and personal experience supporting children and young people with complex needs in health, education, and social care.

For the past 15 years, Sarah has worked at St Oswald's Hospice and has a specialism in spirituality.

Sarah focuses on the day-to-day activities the children and young adults enjoy, working alongside our Sensory Team to ensure they are suitable for all.

She is also a certified breathwork facilitator and Reiki practitioner.

"I am a very passionate person with a genuine love and interest in the work I do."

Sarah loves spending time with family and friends and walking in nature with her 3 dogs. She also regularly attends hot yoga sessions.



Meet Lauren

Sensory Support



Lauren has been at St Oswald's Hospice since 2019 and took on a new role in 2024.

As Sensory Support, she works closely with our education colleagues to develop wellbeing frameworks and sensory support for our children and young adults.

Her specialist link roles include Communication, Positive Behaviour Support, Sexuality, and Multi-Sensory Integration.

Lauren has completed a Level 3 in Child Care and Education and a BA (Hons) Degree in Education with Special and Inclusive Needs.



"In my spare time, I enjoy going swimming and spending time with family and friends."

Meet Marianne

Clinical Support



Marianne has worked with us since 2006.

She started working at the hospice as a part-time receptionist, but her role has developed over the years. Marianne now supports with planning stays, referrals, and reviews.

Marianne says it is a privilege to be part of such a special team and work so closely with the families and amazing children who access our service.



"In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I enjoy cooking and travelling. I also love skiing, but it doesn't always love me!"

Meet Diane Clinical Support

Diane started working in St Oswald's Hospice kitchen more than 20 years ago before realising she had a passion for clinical care.

She retrained as a Care Support Worker, where she loved treating our children and young adults with the compassion and dedication they deserved.

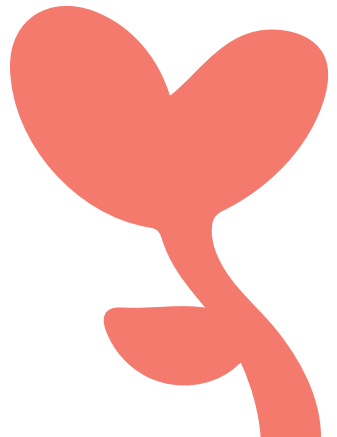
Diane worked in this role for many years, specialising in Nutrition.

More recently, Diane has moved to an administrative role, where she draws on her clinical experience to ensure all our documentation is up-to-date and accurate.

She also works with specialist teams within the Trusts and the community.



"Outside of work, I
enjoy family life with my
husband, daughter, and
two beloved cockapoops!"





Hello from all of us!

At St Oswald's Hospice Children and Young Adults Service, our friendly multi-disciplinary care team include:

- Nurses
- Physiotherapists
- Trainee Advanced Clinical Practitioners
- Occupational Therapists
- Sensory Support
- Activity Coordinators
- Care Support Workers
- Clinical Support
- Housekeeping

We're so proud of the expert care and quality time we provide children, young adults and their families!



**St Oswald's
Hospice**

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