

Press release

Brain Tumour Awareness Week, March 2026

This month marks Brain Tumour Awareness month, and the Association of British Paediatric Nurses (ABPN) is proud to stand alongside the Brain Tumour Charity to call for greater awareness of early symptoms, faster routes to diagnosis, and improved long-term support for children and young people affected by brain tumours.

Brain tumours remain the leading cancer-related cause of death in children in the UK, with an average of over 30 children diagnosed every month¹.

This year we celebrate 30 years of progress in research, support services, and community action driven by the Brain Tumour Charity and its supporters². Diagnosis times - once dangerously long - have significantly improved thanks to decades of groundbreaking research.

Children's nurses see firsthand the impact of delayed diagnosis, demanding treatments, and the long-term effects many survivors live with. Just over half of children who survive a brain tumour may experience lifelong neurological disabilities¹ due to non-specific treatments that damage healthy brain tissue.

Children's nurses play a vital role in improving outcomes by:

- Recognising and acting on early symptoms such as persistent headaches, changes in coordination, seizures, or altered behaviour
- Supporting families through complex treatment pathways and long hospital stays
- Advocating for child- and family-centred care across multidisciplinary teams
- Helping schools understand the cognitive and emotional needs of children affected by brain tumours

Children's nurses witness the emotional toll of childhood brain tumours—on the young person, their parents, and siblings. Many children face multiple surgeries, intensive therapies, and prolonged rehabilitation, often missing school and social milestones.

Early diagnosis remains the most powerful tool for improving outcomes. Awareness campaigns, such as those led by The Brain Tumour Charity, have already transformed diagnostic pathways for children—and ongoing engagement is essential to sustain this progress.

¹ <https://www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk/about-us/brain-tumour-awareness/>

² <https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/brain-tumour-awareness-month/>

The ABPN believes that

- Every child and young person has a right to have their specific needs recognised and addressed^{3,4}
- Infants, children and young people should receive care from nurses that have the child specific and specialist knowledge, skills and competencies to meet their unique needs in age-appropriate facilities, at home or closer to home in community as appropriate⁵
- Child field specific pre-registration undergraduate education programmes, as well as specific post registration education is crucial to equip nurses to meet the needs of children and young people across all settings, including at home or closer to home in community^{6,7}

“Every child deserves the chance not only to survive a brain tumour but to thrive afterwards. As children’s nurses, we support children and families during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. But we also witness the hope that comes from progress in research, advocacy, and education. Brain Tumour Awareness Month is a powerful reminder that by working together — nurses, families, educators, and communities — we can continue to drive improvements in care and create brighter futures for children affected by brain tumours.”

Nicola Fielding – ABPN Member and Children’s Nurse

Notes for editors

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age

The ABPN recognises that primary and community services, as well as child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families.

³ See ABPN Position statement on Children and Young People’s rights [abpn_position_statement_children_and_young_peoples_rights.pdf](#) and ABPN Background briefing on Children and Young People’s Rights [abpn_background_briefing_children_and_young_people.pdf](#)

⁴ UN Declaration of Human Rights 1948 see <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>

⁵ See ABPN Position statement on Workforce planning and nurse staffing [abpn_position_statement_workforce_planning_and_nurse_staffing-final_nov_2024.docx](#) and ABPN Background briefing on workforce planning and nurse staffing [abpn_workforce_planning_and_nurse_staffing_background_briefing_paper-final_nov_2024.docx](#)

⁶ See ABPN Position Statement on Children’s Nurse Education [abpn_position_statement_nurse_education_final_24_november_2024.pdf](#)

⁷ See ABPN Background Paper on Children’s Nurse Education [abpn_cn_education_background_paper_final_22nd_november_2024.pdf](#)

The ABPN is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938. Our wide membership includes experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research.

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