

YOUNG LIVES

VS CANCER



THE PARKING PENALTY

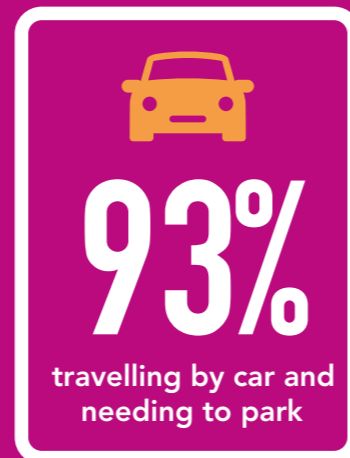
A summary of research exploring the parking costs young cancer patients and their families face as part of travelling for treatment

August 2023

Each year, around 4,000 children and young people in the UK are diagnosed with cancer.¹

To receive the specialist treatment young cancer patients vitally need, they and their families often have to travel long distances, several times a week, and sometimes this will last for years.

Most young cancer patients and their families make these journeys by car and need to park a vehicle.



Journeys were often described as long, stressful, uncomfortable, and both physically and emotionally tiring. For many, parking represented an additional obstacle in already difficult journeys.



Parking was a general source of worry for many. As well as being emotionally costly, parking was financially costly for young cancer patients and their families.



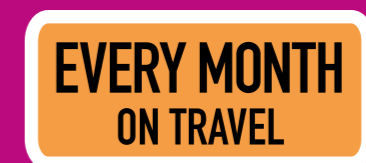
To change the current system, so it better supports all children and young people with cancer and their families, together with the introduction of a Young Cancer Patient Travel Fund, action should be taken in England to ensure no young cancer patient has to pay for parking during their treatment.



Most young cancer patients and their families are struggling to pay for travel costs to and from treatment.



Parking arrangements and existing concessions at hospitals and treatment centres are falling short for many young cancer patients and their families.



These charges contribute towards wider travel costs faced by young cancer patients and their families.

#RunningOnEmpty

Methodology

Data collection for this research was conducted between November 2022 and April 2023. The research comprised of an online survey and follow-up interviews. A total of 259 people took part in the research. This consisted of young people (aged 18 to 26) and parents / caregivers of young people (aged under 27) from across the UK who have experience of cancer treatment and care in the past two years. A Freedom of Information request (FOI) was also submitted to 139 NHS Hospital Trusts in England during November 2022 to explore any concessionary schemes already in place. Four in five of the Trusts (82%) responded to the FOI. Equivalent requests were not submitted in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales as free parking policies are in place in these nations.

younglivesvscancer.org.uk/travelcosts

Young Lives vs Cancer is an operating name of CLIC Sargent Cancer Care for Children. A registered charity in England and Wales (1107328) and in Scotland (SC039857). Registered office: 4th Floor, Whitefriars, Lewins Mead, Bristol, BS1 2NT.

