

CRANE Newsletter

ORGANISATIONAL AUDIT REPORT

We are delighted to announce that we have published the **CRANE Organisational Audit (OA) Report**. This is the first comprehensive OA of cleft services since the centralisation of cleft care following the CSAG report in the late 1990s.

The OA was requested by NHSE to inform the review of the Cleft Lip and Palate and Non-Cleft Velopharyngeal Dysfunction Service Specification.

All cleft services responded, and we thank everyone who participated, either in its development or in its completion.

The OA findings highlight considerable variation in commissioned services, staffing levels, and access to diagnostic and operative facilities. The audit results demonstrate that cleft services are complex and diverse, and they reinforce the need for a clear, well-resourced and consistent model of cleft care delivery across the UK.

The OA report can be accessed [here](#).



CRANE TEAM UPDATE



We are excited to introduce **Samridhi Sharma**, who recently joined our team as the new full time CRANE Coordinator. Samridhi has a background in Global Health and Pharmaceuticals, and she will assist with helpdesk enquiries, stakeholder engagement, quality improvement activities, and the production of our reports.

KEY DATES IN 2025

5 September: Data entry Deadline for Q1 25/26 Dashboard

30 September: Deadline for Outlier letter responses

8 December: Publication of 2025 CRANE Annual report

Updated key milestone information can be found [here](#)

On behalf of the CRANE Team

For more information on this NHS England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland funded programme of work, contact us:

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Conferences

Thank you to the Newcastle team for hosting the **2025 CFSGBI conference** earlier in the year. CRANE gave a number of presentations on both the CEN day and during the main conference.

CRANE is looking forward to attending **The 15th International Congress on Cleft Lip and Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies (CLEFT 2025)** in Kyoto in October. We have five oral presentations covering:

1. Cleft laterality and early educational outcomes.
2. Cleft case ascertainment and incidence in CRANE.
3. Early hearing outcomes of children born with a cleft.
4. Cleft laterality and permanent hearing loss at birth.
5. Early hearing status as a determinant of speech outcome.

OBE AWARD

Huge congratulations to **Lorraine Britton** on being awarded an OBE in the King's birthday honours list. Lorraine is a Speech and Language Therapist working for the Trent Cleft Service and was recognised for her services to children with cleft lip and palate both locally and nationally.

