



CRANE Newsletter



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

We are delighted to announce that the CRANE 2025 Annual Report was published in December 2025. Click [here](#) to access:

- ❖ The CRANE Annual Report,
- ❖ Supplementary tables showing aggregated service-level data,
- ❖ Infographic of the key findings (Executive summary), and
- ❖ Cleft service responses to their outlier status.

Thank you to all UK cleft services for the collection and submission of data into the CRANE Database.

A [summary](#) of findings for the cleft community, written in collaboration with CLAPA, is available too.



Eng & Wales #1108160 & Scot #SC041034

NEW CRANE INFORMATION LEAFLETS

- CRANE has updated its [information leaflets](#) for the cleft community.
- There is now one main leaflet for families, which includes data linkage details.
- The leaflet is shorter, clearer, more accessible, patient-focused, and approved by CAG and CLAPA.
- Due to **nation-specific legal differences**, use the correct leaflet for your country.
- Share the leaflet with families shortly after diagnosis; do not use old versions.
- The leaflet can be printed or accessed via QR code.
- A new consent form is also available on our website.

CRANE DATABASE UPDATES

- **Birthweight** and **gestational age** data items can now be submitted for *all* children in England and Wales, not just those with consent. This is based on approval from the Confidentiality Advisory Group (CAG).
- 5-year-old index scores will now be accepted for **complete bilateral cleft lip and palate** (LAHSAL) cases. Retrospective data can be submitted using imports.
- New psychology **CLEFT Q** and **TIM** tabs will go live in the Spring so that scores, obtained at 10 years, can be submitted.

On behalf of the CRANE Team

For more information on this NHS England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland funded programme of work, contact us: T: 020 7869 6610 E: crane@rcseng.ac.uk

2025 PALATE EXAMINATION GUIDE

The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health published the updated 2025 '[Palate examination: Identification of cleft palate in the newborn-best practice guide](#)'. One of the key recommendations states that

'Trusts should provide training on the correct method of visual inspection of the palate to all healthcare professionals required to carry out the NIPE.'



2026 MAKING IT BETTER WEBINAR

On 22 January, CRANE hosted the **Making it Better** webinar, focusing on the 2025 Annual Report and featuring good-practice presentations from six services. Seventy-four people attended. Slides from the session are available to view [here](#), and we encourage attendees to share key learnings with their cleft teams.

KEY DATES IN 2026

- 23 February 10:30-12:00:** CRANE Q&A webinar
- 13 March:** Data entry deadline for Q3 25/26 Dashboard
- 20 May 10:30-12:00:** CRANE Q&A webinar for Clinical Directors/Leads to review CRANE live tables
- 19 June:** Data entry deadline for Q4 25/26 Dashboard
- 28 June:** Data entry deadline for 2026 Annual Report

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