|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Media release[Embargoed until 18 January 2023] |  |

**Building a better future for children and young people diagnosed with cancer - ground-breaking research commissioned**

Leading cancer charities Young Lives vs Cancer, the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG), the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, and Teenage Cancer Trust are working in partnership to build a new evidence base looking at the psychosocial needs of young cancer patients and how the current system supports them. The research will also identify gaps and what needs to happen in order to build a better future for children and young people diagnosed with cancer.

Dartington Service Design Lab, a charity with a view to improving children’s outcomes through research, systems thinking and co-design approaches, has been commissioned as the research partner. They will undertake experience-led research, which will be co-designed by young people, parents of children with cancer and key stakeholders, with Edge Hill University.  The aim of the research is to improve policies and practice around cancer support, it also hopes to model equitable research practices when working with young people, particularly those with lived experience of cancer.

**Rachel Kirby-Rider, Chief Executive at Young Lives vs Cancer said:** “It’s hugely important that charities really understand the needs of those they support. At the very heart of Young Lives vs Cancer’s next strategy will be children and young people with cancer and what they need, so it’s vital we take a step back, look at the system around them, and identify gaps and what needs to happen to build a better future for them.

“It’s really exciting that together with CCLG, the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, and Teenage Cancer Trust, we’re going to be working with Dartington Service Design Lab on this ground-breaking research. Their enthusiasm to support the children and young people’s cancer sector to build a cohesive system around young cancer patients shines through. I think this research will benefit the whole sector and would really welcome their support and input going forwards.”

**Prof. Tim Hobbs - Chief Executive at Dartington Service Design Lab said:** "This is a hugely exciting and innovative programme of applied research and design. What is particularly exciting is that four of the largest and most impactful children’s cancer charities are collaborating and grounding their future strategic direction by working together to better understand the needs of children and families. This approach also brings together the voices of children, young people and families, new evidence and systems thinking, which will help inform plans about the best roles each organisation can play in the sector- alone and together - to help improve outcomes for those they serve. We at Dartington Service Design Lab are delighted to be working with such forward-thinking partners and inspiring young people."

Research will be taking place throughout the first half of 2023 with initial findings expected in the autumn. Young Lives vs Cancer, Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG), the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust, and Teenage Cancer Trust will be using the research findings to shape their future strategic thinking.

For more information about Young Lives vs Cancer, or this research, please contact Alison Millar, Senior Media and Communications Officer at Young Lives vs Cancer (alison.millar@younglivesvscancer.org.uk or 07775 723 755)

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

**About cancer in children and young people**
Today, 12 more children and young people in the UK will hear the devastating news that they have cancer. Treatment normally starts immediately, is often given many miles from home and can last for up to three years. Although survival rates are over 80%, cancer remains the single largest cause of death from disease in children and young people in the UK.

**About Young Lives vs Cancer**
When a child is diagnosed with cancer life becomes full of fear, for them and their family. Fear of treatment but also of families being torn apart, overwhelming money worries, of having nowhere to turn to, no one to talk to.

Young Lives vs Cancer is the charity that helps children and young people (0-25) and their families find the strength to face whatever cancer throws at them. The charity’s social workers offer specialist, empowering psychosocial support, its Homes from Home offer families a free place to stay nearby to the child’s hospital and grants help families to navigate the costs of cancer. We’ve been there before. We’ll face it all, together. For more information visit <http://www.younglivesvscancer.org.uk>

**About Dartington**
Dartington Service Design Lab is a research and design charity focussed on using evidence and design in innovative ways to help those working with children and young people have a greater impact. Our team of researchers and designers are skilled in service design and improvement methods, systems thinking approaches, data visualisation and communications.

We work at the intersection of evidence-informed practice and user-centred design. We also work at the intersection of public system reform and service design and improvement. We have deep respect for both evidence and the experience and expertise of practitioners, young people and families. We think public systems and services can be more impactful when they are considered together.
[Dartington.org.uk](http://dartington.org.uk/)

**Note to sub editors**
Always use our name in full: Young Lives vs Cancer and write it with only the Y, L and C capitalised. But don't capitalise ‘vs’.

‘Young Lives vs Cancer’ should be not be abbreviated – it’s not “Young Lives” for short, nor “YLvC

Dartington Service Design Lab should never be shortened to ‘The Lab’, only ever ‘Dartington’