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News Release

## **YORKSHIRE GETS A VOICE ON BOARD OF CANCER RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS**

Yorkshire Cancer Research's chief executive has joined a board of the UK's top cancer research organisations.

Mark Stevens, who joined Harrogate-based Yorkshire Cancer Research last May after leaving his previous job as a banker, has been appointed as board member of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) - a UK-wide partnership between Government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research and treatment development for the benefit of patients and scientists nation-wide.

Mr Stevens' new position means he will join chief executives and scientific advisors from major cancer charities, organisations and Government departments, including Cancer Research UK, the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health, in co-ordinating cancer research and developing initiatives to help tackle the disease.

His appointment is the first time Yorkshire Cancer Research has ever been represented on an influential national cancer board.

His position will also ensure Yorkshire plays a role at the forefront of future UK cancer research co-ordination activities.

Mr Stevens said: "I am delighted to be joining many senior staff from the NCRI's member organisations to make collective decisions about how best to progress cancer research activity and treatment developments in this country.

"Crucially, the NCRI informs decisions about new research taking place across the UK, showcases the best British and international cancer research at the annual NCRI Cancer Conference and develops new facilities and resources for cancer research.

"Without the NCRI co-ordinating all this activity, we simply wouldn't be making the progress we are today in the cancer research field and there would still be unnecessary duplication of effort with no single source of information about research in the UK.

“I am particularly keen to make sure Yorkshire has a voice on the board as there is still a lot of disparity between cancer research funding in the north and south of the UK which currently sees the north lag behind in cancer survival rates.”

Dr Jane Cope, director of the NCRI, added: “As we approach the tenth anniversary of the NCRI, we look forward to working with Mark and the rest of the board to shape the next decade in cancer research.

“Mark’s experience will bring a new dimension to our discussions and make him an invaluable addition to the board.”

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**Editors Notes:**

- Harrogate-based Yorkshire Cancer Research (YCR), the UK’s largest regional medical research charity, funds around £7m a year of internationally recognised cancer research at its five centres of excellence at the universities of Bradford, Hull, Leeds, Sheffield and York and their associated teaching hospitals.
- The 200 plus scientists and clinicians, funded by Yorkshire Cancer Research, are among the world leaders in the fight against cancer and the charity has committed a further £15 million over the next few years to continue funding them in their effort to find a cure for all forms of cancer.
- Yorkshire Cancer Research has been funding research solely in Yorkshire since 1925 and over the last 86 years it has helped generate some major medical breakthroughs enabling international cancer specialists to build upon research emanating from the region.
- Over the next 10 years, Yorkshire Cancer Research is committed to slashing current statistics that show 259 people die every week from cancer in Yorkshire alone.

- Yorkshire Cancer Research is the most cost efficient cancer research charity in the UK spending 83 pence in every pound on cancer research versus 67p at Cancer Research UK and 58p at Breakthrough Breast Cancer for example.
- Donations to Yorkshire Cancer Research keep the very best doctors and clinicians working in Yorkshire ensuring Yorkshire people, who get cancer, have the best possible chance to survive.
- Yorkshire Cancer Research is a registered charity. Registered charity number 516898.
- To donate Text 'Yorkshire' to 70007. Each text costs £3, and a minimum of £1.90 will go to Yorkshire Cancer Research. Alternatively donate online [www.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk](http://www.yorkshirecancerresearch.org.uk)

#### **About the NCRI**

- The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) was established in April 2001. It is a UK-wide partnership between the government, charity and industry which promotes co-operation in cancer research among the 21 member organisations for the benefit of patients, the public and the scientific community. For more information visit [www.ncri.org.uk](http://www.ncri.org.uk)