

cancer fund
for children

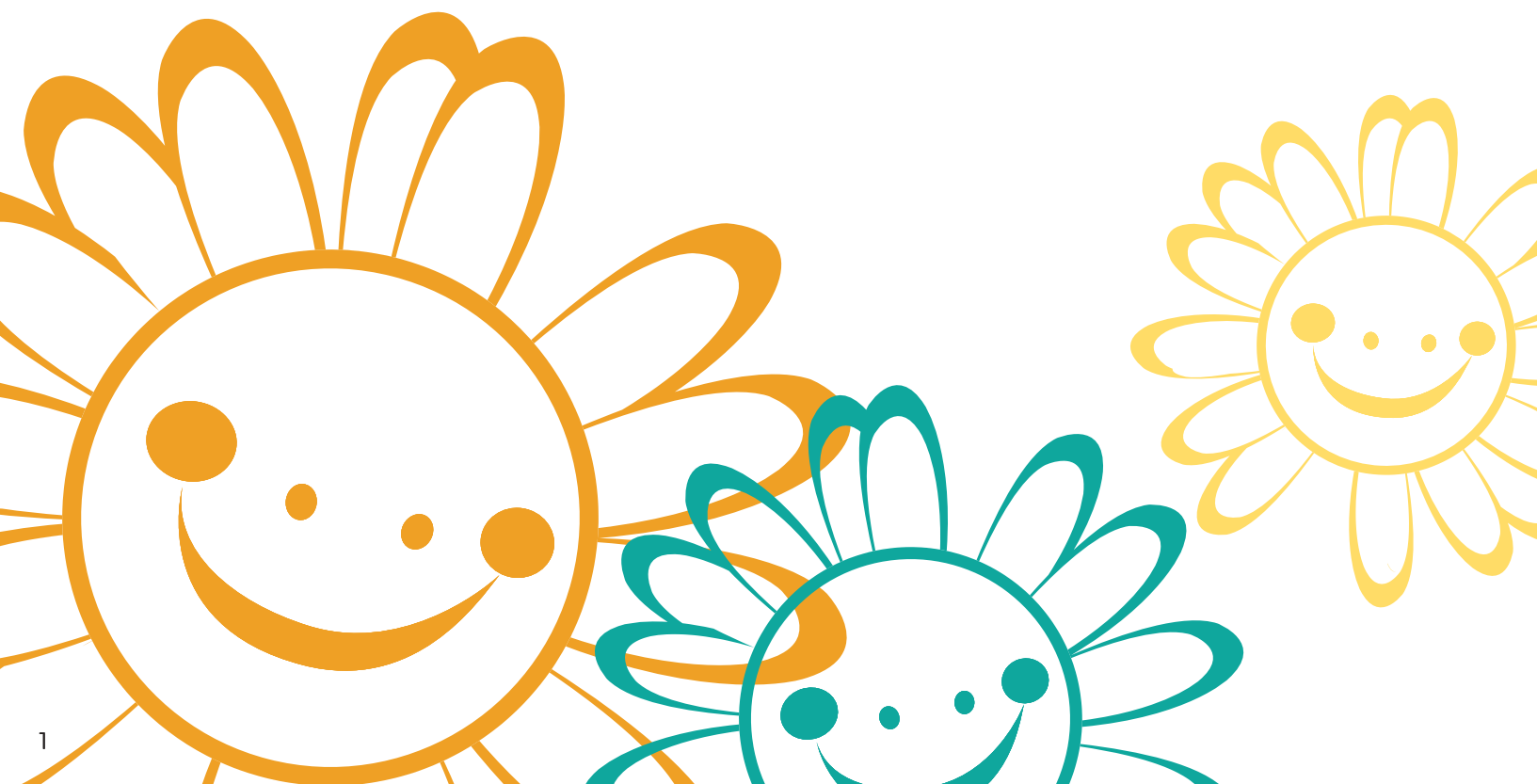
INFORMATION PACK

Cancer Support Specialist
covering Cork/Munster region
February 2026



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WELCOME

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the Cancer Support Specialist role with Cancer Fund for Children.

This is an exciting time for the charity as we expand our therapeutic services for children, young people, and families across the island of Ireland. We are also preparing to begin construction on our second Daisy Lodge short break centre, while raising vital awareness of the impact cancer has on families and the urgent need for greater support.

We are committed to recruiting and developing passionate, positive, and enthusiastic individuals who are dedicated to supporting families affected by cancer, and who are inspired by the mission of Cancer Fund for Children - to empower, connect and strengthen children and young so they feel equipped to cope with the emotional impact of cancer.

In this information pack, you can find out more about becoming part of Cancer Fund for Children's team. Our organisation lives by our values:

Powerful Connections – We nurture impactful relationships between the young people and families we support, within our communities and stakeholder networks, and across our staff team.

Bold Ambition – Our vision drives us to go further, reaching more young people with greater impact. We embrace bold aspirations and turn ambition into action. By aiming high and pushing boundaries, we make extraordinary things possible.

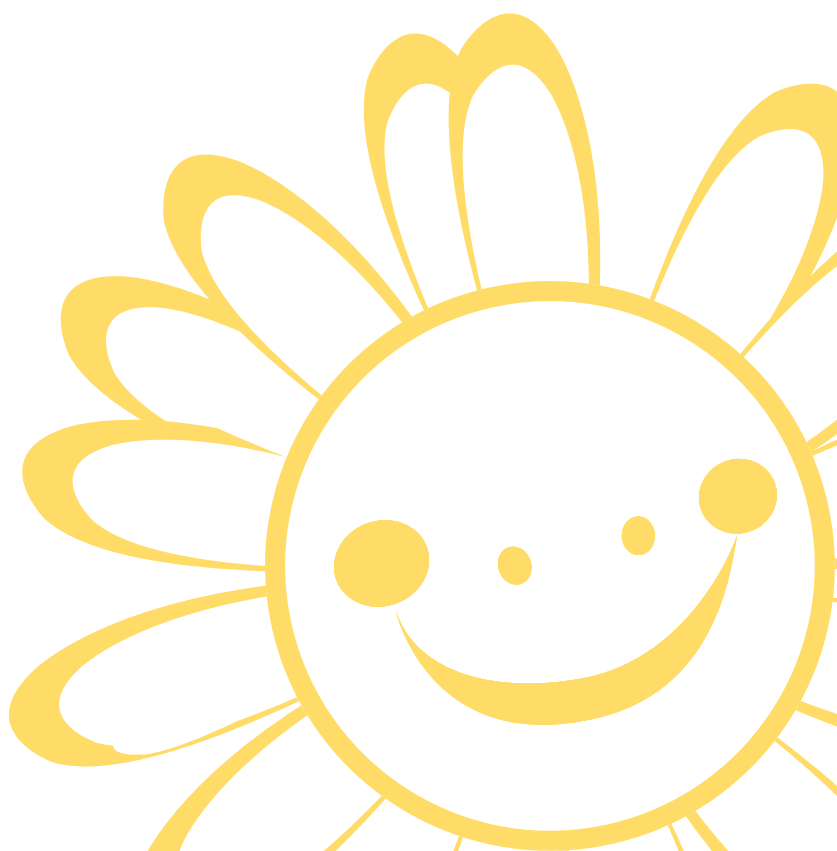
Integrity – We build trust through honesty and openness, upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and ensuring our actions reflect our words and beliefs.

They shape our vision and drive our mission, guiding our decisions, actions, and relationships.

We believe this is what makes Cancer Fund for Children a great place to work.

Thank you for your interest in joining our team — we look forward to receiving your application.

Phil Alexander,
CEO



OUR STORY

No child should face cancer alone.

Cancer Fund for Children is an ambitious charity with a vision that every child impacted by cancer should receive the right emotional support at the right time, no matter where they live on the island of Ireland.

The charity was founded in 1973 by Margaret McAlpine MBE who was a teacher who had been recruited to provide continuity to children's education whilst they were receiving treatment on the wards at Belvoir Park Hospital in Belfast.

Over the following years, Margaret recruited a range of volunteers, including consultant oncologist Dr George Edelstein, to form a Board of Trustees to help deliver a range of practical and financial support to families impacted by childhood cancer. This evolved into residential support with the purchase of Shimna Valley House in Co. Down in 1996. Shimna Valley provided families caring for a sick child with a tranquil space to spend quality time together, far removed from the stress of hospital wards and treatment routines. Shimna Valley was the forerunner to Daisy Lodge, which was opened by professional Golfer, Rory McIlroy 2014.

Over the last 20 years, our Board of Trustees has helped shape Cancer Fund for Children into the charity it is today, bringing in skilled, passionate staff to support families through therapeutic services and fundraising. As a result, we've grown into one of the leading Irish charities supporting children and young people affected by cancer.

At Cancer Fund for Children, we believe that the voice of young people is at the heart of everything we do. We employ people who are compassionate, skilled, and driven to make a real difference in the lives of the families we support.



WHAT WE DO

Cancer Fund for Children provides a wide range of support to children and young people impacted by cancer and their families. You will find more information on our website at cancerfundforchildren.com.

Connections Team

Our Connections Team is the first point of contact after a referral, ensuring families feel heard, supported, and informed about Cancer Fund for Children's services. Each family is assigned a dedicated Connections Support Specialist who regularly checks in to assess their needs and provide additional support where required.

Hospital-Based Support

We have a Youth Support Worker who offers age-specific support to adolescents and young adults (11-24) in St. John's Ward, Crumlin, where they receive cancer treatment. We provide opportunities for group activities on the ward and run Young Adult short breaks (18-24yrs) to provide opportunities for peer connection with others who have had a similar experience.

Community-Based Support

Our Cancer Support Specialists work one-to-one with children, young people, and parents at home and in the community, providing support when and where it's needed most. We also facilitate group programmes that foster peer support for young people affected by cancer and for those who have experienced bereavement.

Youth Engagement

Our Youth Engagement Team ensures that young people's voices are at the heart of Cancer Fund for Children, empowering them to influence policy and practice. Our Youth Engagement Groups have completed training in recruitment and selection, teamwork, advocacy, presentation skills, leadership, and more. Young people actively participate on interview panels and have shared their experiences of cancer at a variety of speaking events.

Daisy Lodge

Therapeutic short breaks at Daisy Lodge in Newcastle, Co. Down offer families quality time together in a safe, supportive environment. Feedback shows that after their stay, 90% of families felt more hopeful, 95% felt better able to manage their situation, and 96% said their relationships were strengthened.

As Daisy Lodge is at full capacity, we are building a second therapeutic centre near Cong, Co. Mayo, which will more than double our annual short breaks, increasing family members served from 1,800 to 4,000.



OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Our Vision

Our vision is that no child faces cancer alone.

Our Mission

Our mission is to empower, connect and strengthen children, young people and their families so they feel equipped to cope with the emotional impact of cancer.

Our Values

At Cancer Fund for Children, our values are the foundation of everything we do. They shape our vision and drive our mission, define who we are, how we behave and how we collaborate with others.



Powerful Connections

Powerful connections are at the core of our organisation. We nurture impactful connections between the young people and families we support, with our communities and stakeholders, and across our all-island staff team.



Bold Ambition

Our vision drives us to go further, to reach more young people with greater impact. We embrace bold aspiration and turn ambition into action. By aiming high and pushing boundaries, we make extraordinary things possible.



Courage

We have the courage to lead and have difficult conversations. We embrace open communication and address sensitive topics, always with the intent of empowering those we support and those we work alongside.



Compassion

Compassion guides our work to create safe spaces, offer genuine care, and approach others with kindness. We aim to ensure every person we interact with feels seen, heard, and supported.



Integrity

We build trust through honesty and openness, upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and ensuring our actions reflect our words and beliefs.



Collective Responsibility

Each one of us plays a vital role in achieving our collective goals. We take personal ownership of our actions and support each other to ensure that as a team we reach our shared vision.

OUR STRATEGY

As we are coming to the end of our 2021-2025 strategy we are in the process of reviewing and developing our next five-year strategy.

You can read our current strategy [here](#) but we have included an overview of our six strategic pillars.

Services: We will listen to children and young people and ensure their voices are at the heart of our organisation.

Engagement: We will ensure that the voices of children, young people and their families impacted by cancer are amplified across the island of Ireland.

Supporting and Funding our Work: We will develop a dynamic and visionary funding strategy that builds diversified and sustainable levels of income from the public and strategic funding partners.

Awareness: We will ensure that the voices of children, young people and their families impacted by cancer are amplified across the island of Ireland.

People: We will foster a high-performing, well-resourced, inclusive and values driven culture that enables our team to thrive.

Governance and Infrastructure: We will ensure that our organisational infrastructure and governance are fit for purpose and aligned with our evolving needs and aspirations.



JOB DESCRIPTION

Role:	Cancer Support Specialist – (Children, young adults and Family – Community – (Home based) covering Cork and surrounding Munster counties.
Reporting to:	Services Manager
Line managed by:	Services Manager
Salary Scale:	€40,257.00- €46,354.00
Hours:	35 Hours per week – Flexible working to include evenings and weekends - Extra hours worked and then taken, using TOIL process (Time off in lieu)
Location:	Home based – with a dedicated geographic remit: Cork and surrounding counties in Munster National travel also required from time to time.
Date:	Feb/March 2026
Duration:	Permanent following successful probation

Cancer Fund for Children has over 30 years' experience delivering support and services to children, teenagers and young adults living with cancer and their families.

Cancer Fund for Children provides ward support, community support and short breaks across the island of Ireland ensuring that no child or young person faces cancer alone.

Are you passionate about making a real difference in the lives of children, teenagers, and young adults affected by cancer? We are seeking a dedicated **Cancer Support Specialist** to join our services team in Ireland, who will be covering **Cork and Munster** with some **national travel**. This is a unique opportunity to provide compassionate, creative, and practical support to families navigating a cancer diagnosis.

Role Overview

As a Cancer Support Specialist, you will play a meaningful role in delivering individual, creative social and emotional support to children, young people, and families navigating the impact of a cancer diagnosis. Working primarily in homes and community settings, you will:

- Offer creative, practical, child-centred supportive interventions.
- Support children and young people in building resilience and coping skills.
- Provide whole family support with a flexible, relationship based approach.
- Build connections with families, health professionals, and charity partners across Munster.
- Maintain accurate and confidential records.
- Work collaboratively with our all Ireland services team.
- Travel regularly throughout Munster, with some national travel required.
- Facilitate therapeutic group work in line with Cancer Fund for Children model of support.

JOB DESCRIPTION

What We're Looking For

- Direct experience supporting children/young people in a therapeutic, psychosocial, social care or youth work setting.
- Strong engagement skills, creativity and the ability to build meaningful relationships.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Passion for supporting families affected by childhood cancer.
- Commitment to safeguarding and professional ethical practice.
- Flexibility to work some evenings/weekends (TOIL available).

Why join us?

- Make a real difference to families at a vulnerable time.
- Join a supportive, reflective, values driven team.
- Benefit from flexible working and opportunities for ongoing development.

**Applicants are encouraged to look at our social media and website in preparation for the interview.*

JOB DESCRIPTION

Key Accountabilities

1. Operational Accountabilities

- 1.1 Develop, agree and implement, in conjunction with the Services Manager a clear operational plan to ensure families within your geographical area are offered Cancer fund for Children support.
- 1.2 Ensure that all service provision delivered under the post holder's remit meets the needs of children, young people, and families and that all resources are appropriately allocated according to priority of need.
- 1.3 Deliver a high standard of care based on the assessed need of individual children, young people, and families and within the whole family concept
- 1.4 Maintain confidential, accurate case records to account for all direct work with children, young people, and family members in receipt of Cancer Fund for Children services.
- 1.5 Deliver scheduled support plans in partnership with children, young people, and families within a rights-based ethos.
- 1.6 Deliver age appropriate and engaging informal individual support and to groups of children and young people aged 5-24 in their homes and in the community.
- 1.7 Provide written reports to an agreed standard, reviewing all individual and group-work to measure and evidence impact/outcomes.
- 1.8 Contribute to the development of new ideas and proposals as we imbed and expand services across Ireland.
- 1.9 Work as an effective member of the services team across Ireland, including Northern Ireland.
- 1.10 Develop and maintain close working relationships with Multi-Disciplinary Teams in the National Children's Cancer Centre (CHI at Crumlin), Cork University Hospital and relevant local Hospitals and shared care centres within your region.
- 1.11 Establish effective relationships with other charities and key providers locally who may be able to offer further support to children, young people and their families.

General Accountabilities

- 1.12 Provide accurate data, as determined by the Services Manager, on an agreed basis.
- 1.13 Provide support to volunteers to ensure they receive appropriate direction and resources to fulfil their designated role.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- 1.14 Be cognisant and compliant with all Cancer Fund for Children policies and procedures designed to meet all service delivery requirements and that apply to the organisation as a whole.

Financial Accountabilities

- 1.15 Work within agreed project expenditure, in line with budgets, up to a limit set by the Director of Services.
- 1.16 To submit all expenses to Services Manager on a monthly basis.
- 1.17 To ensure responsibility of all resources held within the post's remit, including equipment and facilities.

2. General Duties:

- 2.1 To attend all Services Team meetings, prepare material and fully contribute to casework discussions. - Typically help in our Maynooth, Co. Kildare office.
- 2.2 To be available for planning, review, supervision, support and appraisal meetings.
- 2.3 To be available for on-going professional development / training opportunities and to attend all mandatory training.
- 2.4 To promote Cancer Fund for Children services available to children and young people and their families
- 2.5 To represent Cancer Fund for Children as delegated by the Services Manager.
- 2.6 To perform any other reasonable duties and specific projects deemed to be within the post-holder's competence, as assigned by management to contribute to the overall aims of the Cancer Fund for Children.

Performance

- 3.1 A 1, 3 and 6 month probationary period will be applied to this role, and review meetings carried out with the Services manager.
- 3.2 Ongoing performance will be monitored and supported through regular reporting and 6 weekly supervisions.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Person Specification

Key Criteria	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Desirable</u>
<i>Qualifications</i>	<p>A recognised Professional Qualification in one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Work • Social Care • Community Youth work • Play Therapy • Nursing • Therapeutic discipline <p><i>Or other relevant professional qualification</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to demonstrate clear evidence of ongoing professional development <p><i>* please note this is not a clinical role</i></p>
<i>Experience / Knowledge</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 years' experience of delivering direct services to children/young people and/or their families • Knowledge of relevant government policy supporting children and families affected by childhood cancer. • Knowledge of child protection legislation and procedures • Knowledge of assessment tools / methods • Experience of working with young people in group settings • Experience of working within a multi-disciplinary team and/or working collaboratively with others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in the field of critical illness, disability, bereavement, and loss in an acute setting • Experience of completing assessments and delivering support plans • Experience of advocacy/rights-based work with children/young people/parents
<i>Competencies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent written and verbal communication skills to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active listening skills • Group work skills • Assessment skills • Strong report writing skills • Monitoring and Evaluation skills • Ability to forward plan, prioritise and manage time/workload 	

PERSON SPECIFICATION

<u>Key Criteria</u>	<u>Essential</u>	<u>Desirable</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proficient use of industry-standard ICT software, including database packages• Innovative, resilient and adaptable to change• Ability to work both independently and as part of a team.	
<i>Job Circumstances</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to travel as required• Driving licence or alternative means of flexible transport• Work flexible hours including evenings and weekends.	

- ***Please note the organisation reserves the right to enhance the above criteria to facilitate short-listing.***
- ***Garda vetting is a requirement of the post.***

WHAT WE OFFER YOU

We value and take care of our team. At Cancer Fund for Children, we offer employees:

Staff Development

- Organisation Wide Training Budget linked to Role, Strategic Plan, Individual Requests and Competencies
- Induction Programme
- Personal Development Plans
- Ongoing Supervision
- Continued Personal Development Support
- Regular Staff Information Days

Work Life Balance

- Standard 35 hour working week
- 28 Days Annual Leave and 11 Statutory Days
- Fixed Christmas Closure (requires 3 days annual leave)
- Day off for your Birthday
- Flexible Working Opportunities
- Time Off in Lieu (TOLL) in compensation of additional hours worked
- Career Breaks
- Family Friendly Policies

Social, Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing

- Health & Wellbeing Committee delivering organisational-wide initiatives
- Mental Health First Aiders
- Private Healthcare
- Cross-department team-working/volunteering opportunities

Financial Reward and Recognition

- Annual Increment to Top of Scale
- Pension Scheme
- Work Related Professional Membership Fees Paid
- Mileage Allowance



HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the Application Form for this role. CVs will not be accepted. The deadline for applications is **22nd February 2026**. Applications should be made by email to: hr@cancerfundforchildren.com.

If you have any queries about the role or the application process, please contact hr@cancerfundforchildren.com.

Garda Vetting

All successful applicants will be required to undergo a Garda Vetting check (refer to Garda Vetting guidelines for criteria).

Disability

In line with the Employment Equality Acts 1998-2015, Cancer Fund for Children take seriously its obligation to make "appropriate measures" or reasonable accommodations to ensure people with disabilities are not substantially disadvantaged during the application, assessment, and selection processes.

If you consider yourself to have a disability relevant to the position for which you are applying, please contact our People & Culture Team, who will ensure that your application is processed fairly. They will also endeavor to make specific arrangements/carry out any reasonable adjustments necessary to assist you in completing your duties if appointed to the post.



TIMELINE

Application Form to be submitted by **22nd February 2026**.

Interviews

Week commencing **10th March 2026** in our Maynooth Office.

Equal Opportunities

Cancer Fund for Children is an Equal Opportunities Employer, and all applications are considered strictly on merit.

It is our policy to provide employment equality to all, irrespective of:

- Gender
- Gender reassignment
- Marital or civil partnership status
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Religious belief or political opinion
- Race (including colour, nationality, ethnic or national or national origins, being an Irish Traveller)
- Disability
- Sexual orientation
- Age

Please address any enquires relating to the advertised position, and your submission to:

Joanne Symington
People & Culture Officer
Cancer Fund for Children
E: hr@cancerfundforchildren.com

www.cancerfundforchildren.com