



cancer fund
for children

INFORMATION PACK

Youth Engagement Worker

May 2026



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WELCOME

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the role of Youth Engagement Worker 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 in the process of construction of 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.

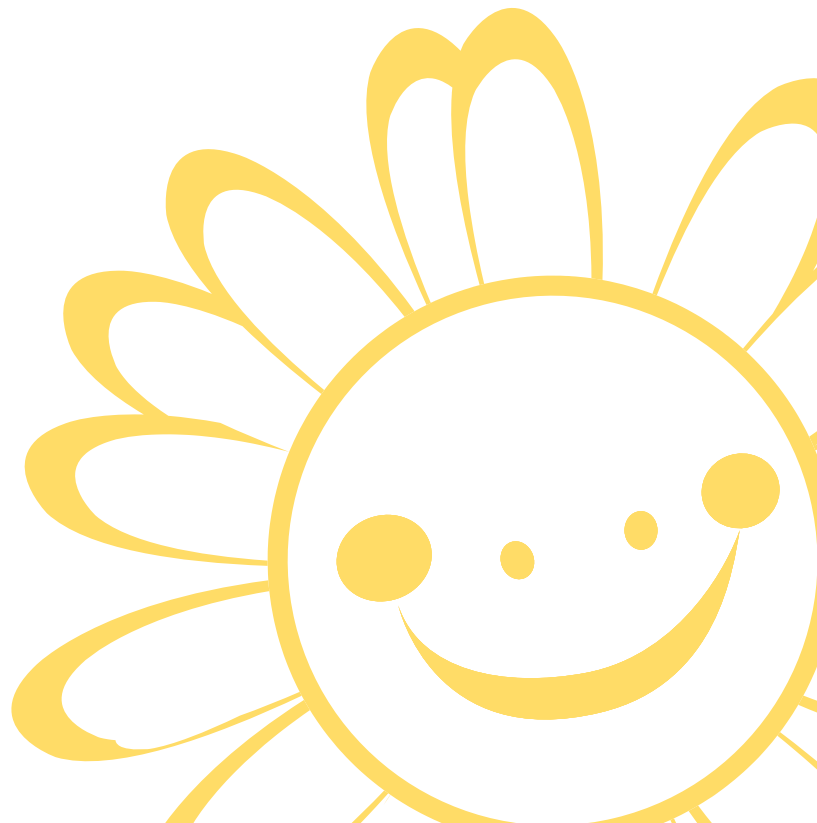
They shape our vision and drive our mission, guiding our decisions, actions, and relationships.

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 Worker 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.

We have detailed below 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:	Youth Engagement Worker
Reporting to:	Youth Engagement Manager
Line managed by:	Youth Engagement Manager
Salary Scale:	Pay Points 32-34 {range: €41,464.71 - €43,420.68}
Hours:	35 hours per week
Location:	Maynooth based with hybrid working covering Ireland
Duration:	Permanent
Closing Date:	Tuesday, 16th June 2026 - midday

Cancer Fund for Children's mission is to ensure that no child or young person across the island of Ireland have to face cancer alone. The charity has over 30 years' experience delivering support and services to children, teenagers and young adults living with cancer and their families.

Our aim is to connect, empower and strengthen children and young people and their families so they are better equipped to deal with the impact of cancer. We do this by providing emotional and social support in the family home, in communities across Ireland, on the hospital ward and at our therapeutic short break centre.

This is an exciting time to join Cancer Fund for Children as we embark on a new organisational strategy and wish to extend our reach and engagement in local communities across Ireland.

Role Overview

Youth engagement was a new development for Cancer Fund for Children in our last strategy (2021-2026) and whilst some of our youth engagement work is now established in Ireland, this area of work is largely in its infancy. The development of youth engagement within Ireland and widening participation are key elements of our new strategy (2026-2030) and this role, which comes at an exciting time of development for the charity, will involve building on the learning to-date and established initiatives, alongside growing and developing youth engagement in Ireland.

The Youth Engagement Worker will work as part of the all-Island Youth Engagement Team to ensure the ongoing development and delivery of children and young people's engagement and participation. They will work to ensure their voice is at the heart of our service and support children and young people impacted by cancer to positively affect change.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Key Accountabilities

1. Operational Accountabilities

- Plan and deliver recruitment, training, and a regular programme of activity for ongoing youth engagement structures within the charity.
- Plan and carry out recruitment, training and an ongoing programme of activity for Young Ambassadors.
- Support children and young people to actively campaign/lobby on issues that are important to them.
- Support Cancer Fund for Children in actively engaging with ongoing consultations, public campaigns.
- Work alongside Youth Engagement Team members and wider staff team to ensure children and young people across our service have opportunities to have their voice heard and are given the opportunity to reflect on the support we offer to them.
- Develop, agree and implement, in conjunction with the Youth Engagement Manager,
- Work as part of the all-island Youth Engagement Team and where appropriate, feed into ongoing team meetings as part of the Community Team and wider Services Team.
- Ensure that all youth engagement activity is safe, supportive, needs-led and empowering for young people involved, including completion of support plans, regular reviews, assessments of needs and risk assessments.
- Establish and maintain close working relationships with colleagues across the organisation, working in collaboration and supporting the involvement of young people in opportunities across the charity.
- Establish and maintain close working relationships with key external organisations, who may provide support, training and/or collaboration opportunities in relation to participation, campaigning, and advocacy.
- Provide training and direct support to children and young people wishing to get involved in youth engagement.
- Maintain confidential, accurate case records to account for all direct work with young people in receipt of Cancer Fund for Children services.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on all progress against agreed action plan.
- Contribute to the development of new ideas and proposals for delivering services within realistic time frames and budgets.

JOB DESCRIPTION

2. General Accountabilities

- Provide accurate data, as determined by the Youth Engagement Manager, on an agreed basis.
- Be cognisant and compliant with Cancer Fund for Children policies and procedures designed to meet service delivery requirements and that apply to the organisation as a whole.
- Provide support to volunteers and sessional workers to ensure they receive appropriate direction and resources to fulfil their designated role.gues across the organisation, working in collaboration and supporting the involvement of young people in opportunities across the charity.

3. Financial Accountabilities

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

4. General Duties

- To be available for, attend, prepare fully for and contribute to planning, team, review, supervision, support and appraisal meetings.
- To be available for on-going professional development / training opportunities and to attend all mandatory training.
- To promote Cancer Fund for Children services available to children and young people and their families.
- To represent Cancer Fund for Children as delegated by the Youth Engagement Manager.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Level Recognised Professional Qualification in Youth and Community Work, Social Work, Health Care, or Therapist. OR: • At least 3 years relevant paid experience in a similar role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registered with CORU or equivalent professional body. • Able to demonstrate clear evidence of ongoing professional development.
Experience / Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and experience of participatory practice with children and young people. • A working knowledge of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. • At least 3 years' experience of delivering direct services to children/young people and their families. • Proven experience and knowledge of using creative and needs-led methods of engagement with children and young people. • Knowledge of child protection legislation and procedures. • Experience of working within set budgets. • Experience of working with young people in groups/organising and facilitating groupwork sessions and events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of working in the field of critical illness, disability, bereavement, and loss. • Knowledge of assessment tools/methods. • Experience of completing assessments and delivering support plans. • Experience of advocacy/rights-based work with children/young people/parents. • Knowledge of relevant government policy supporting children and families affected by cancer.
Competencies	<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 develop relationships and work in collaboration with colleagues across the organisation and with a wide range of external professionals/charities/ stakeholders. • Ability to forward plan, prioritise and manage time/workload. • Proficient use of industry-standard ICT software, including database packages. • Innovative, resilient, and adaptable to change. • Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team. 	

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable
<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 each week and weekends.• Candidates must be legally entitled to work in Ireland at the time of application.	

This job information is not intended to be either restrictive or definitive. It is important to note that the responsibilities of the post may change to meet the evolving needs of the charity.

NB: *The organisation reserves the right to enhance the above criteria to facilitate short-listing.*

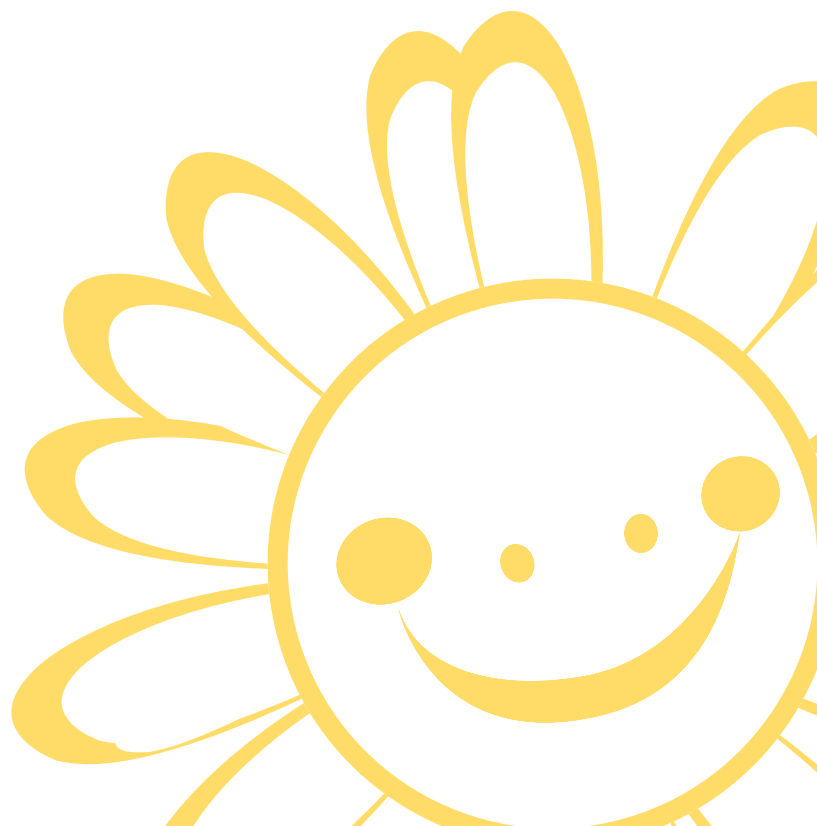
WHY WORK FOR US?

Youth engagement was a new development for Cancer Fund for Children in our last strategy (2021-2026) and whilst some of our youth engagement work is now established in Ireland, this area of work is largely in its infancy. The development of youth engagement within Ireland and widening participation are key elements of our new strategy (2026-2030) and this role, which comes at an exciting time of development for the charity, will involve building on the learning to-date and established initiatives, alongside growing and developing youth engagement in Ireland.

The Youth Engagement Worker will be part of the all-island Youth Engagement Team, who are skilled, supportive and passionate about working to ensure the voices of children, young people and young adults impacted by cancer are at the heart of our service, and that they are supported to positively affect change.

This will include leading on the planning and delivery of ongoing engagement mechanisms, supporting young people to share their story, engaging young people in campaigning/lobbying, consultations, involving young people in opportunities to influence our services/charity and responding to requests from across the organisation for the involvement of young people, with the ultimate aim of ensuring children and young people impacted by cancer are seen, heard and supported to be active voices for change.

If you're looking for a purpose-driven role with the opportunity for creativity, development, working with others across the organisation/sector and real impact, this is it!



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 10 Statutory Days
- Fixed Christmas Closure (requires 3 days annual leave)
- Day off for your Birthday
- Flexible Working Opportunities
- Time Off in Lieu (TOIL) 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. The deadline for applications is midday on **Tuesday, 16th June 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).

Right to Work

Candidates must be legally entitled to work in Ireland at the time of application and hold the relevant documentation, as required under the Irish Employment & Immigration law.

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 midday on **Tuesday, 16th June 2026**.

Interviews

Will take place on **8th and 9th July 2026** at our Maynooth Office.

Equal Opportunities

Cancer Fund for Children is an equal opportunities employer and we welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons.'

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