



cancer fund
for children



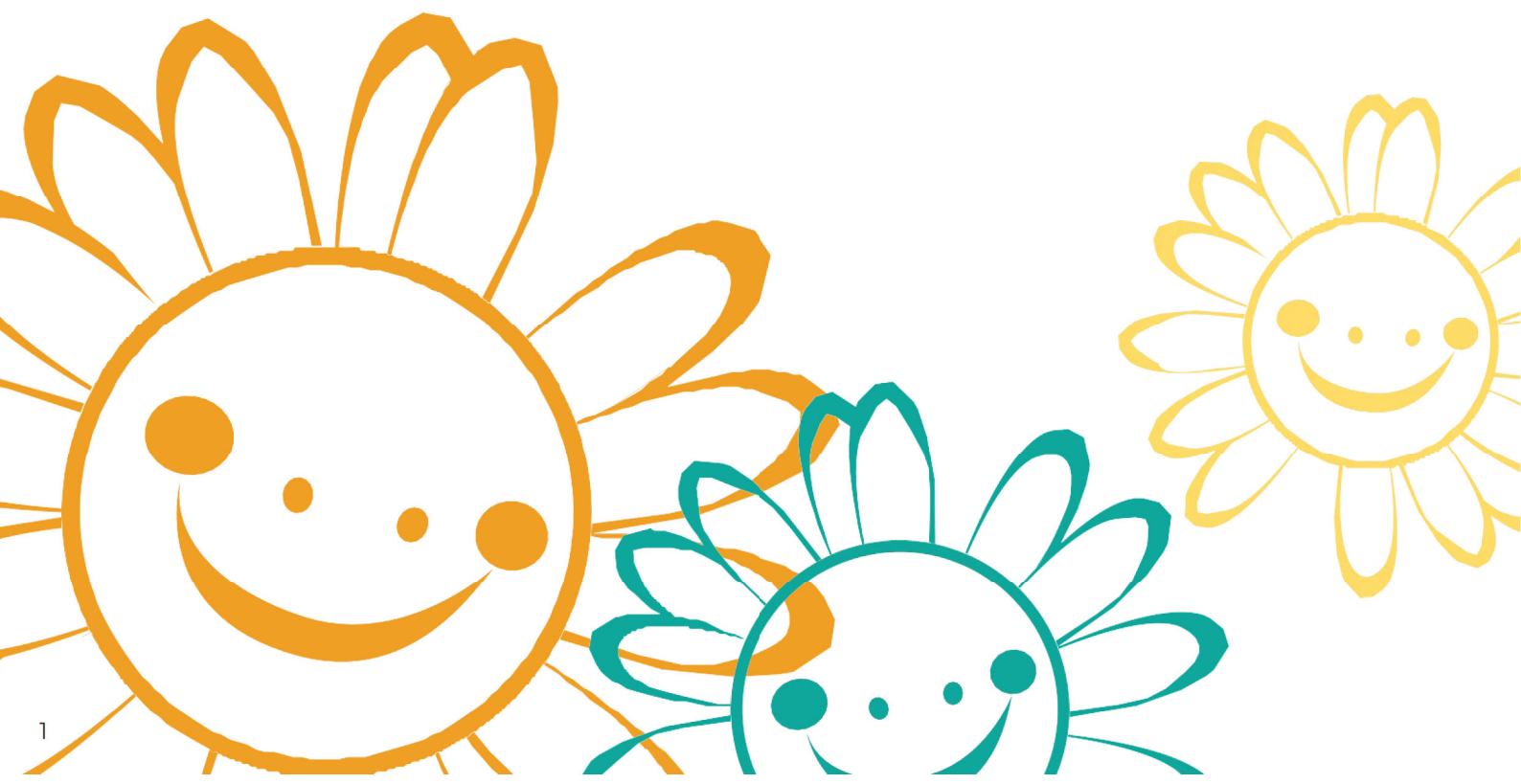
INFORMATION PACK

Youth Support Worker
October 2026



CONTENTS

Welcome	2
Our Story	3
What We Do	4
Our Vision, Mission and Values	5
Our Strategy	6
Job Description	7
Person Specification	8
What we offer you	9
How to Apply	10
TimelIne	11



WELCOME

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for your interest in the Youth Support Worker 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.

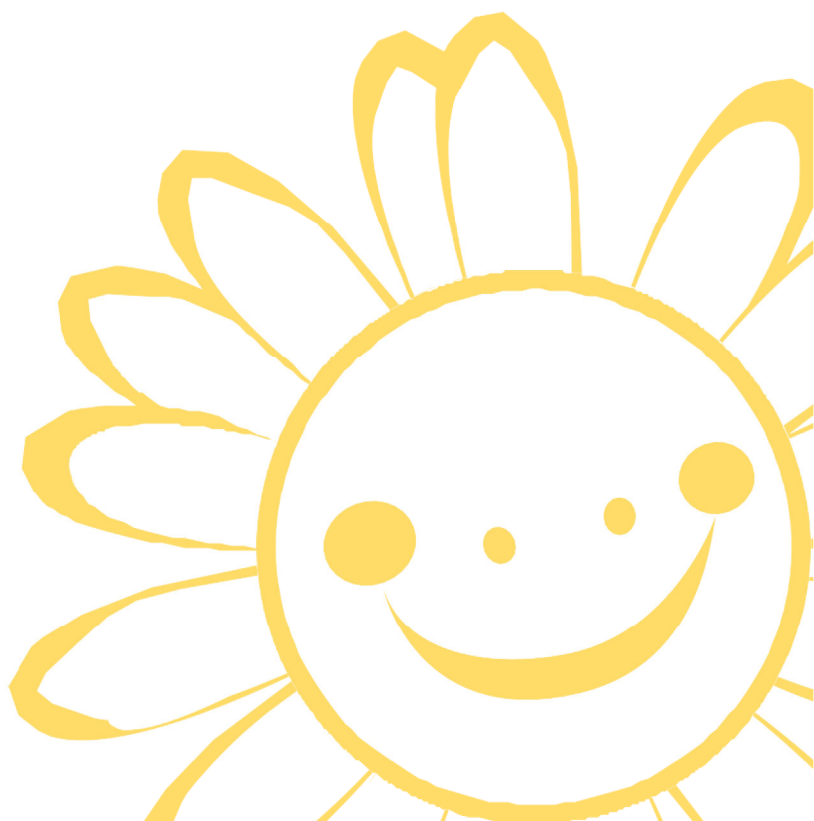
Integrity – We build trust through honesty and openness, upholding the highest standards of transparency and accountability, and ensuring our actions reflect our words and beliefs.

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

At Cancer Fund for Children, our purpose has always been clear: to ensure that every child, young person and family impacted by cancer feels recognised, listened to and fully supported.

Our 2026–2030 strategic plan, Power of Connection, sets out the next phase of our ambition to strengthen the support we provide across the island of Ireland.

This strategy is built around three core ambitions - Reaching Every Young Person, Empowering Voices, and Leading Change. Together, they represent our commitment to delivering compassionate therapeutic support to the whole family, advocating for the needs and experiences of young people, and continually improving how we work together as an organisation.

Over the next five years, we will focus on expanding access to our services, deepening our engagement with young people, strengthening the evidence behind our approach, and ensuring families are supported at every stage from diagnosis and treatment when needed through to bereavement.

With the opening of our second therapeutic short break centre, continued investment in our team, and stronger partnerships across the voluntary and healthcare sectors, we are well placed to reach more families than ever before.

Grounded in compassion and guided by the voices of those we support, this strategic plan reflects our commitment to ensuring no child or young person faces cancer alone. Together with supporters, partners and communities, we are building a future where every family impacted by cancer feels truly seen, heard and supported.

Peter O'Brien
Cancer Fund for Children Chair



JOB DESCRIPTION

Role:	Youth Support Worker (Ref YSW-ROI-26-14)
Reporting to:	Link person in CHI at Crumlin is CNM3
Line Managed by:	Cancer Fund for Children – Services Manager
Direct Reports:	Overall reporting to Servies Manager at Cancer Fund for Children (CFFC)
Salary Scale:	Pay Points 32-39, range: €41,465 - €47,745}
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:	CHI at Crumlin – Haem/Onc Department (and other agreed sites)
Date:	December 2026
Duration:	This post is a permanent contract
Reflective Practice	Available externally through Cancer Fund for Children (6 sessions)

Role Overview

The overriding role and responsibility of the Youth Support Worker (YSW) is to work as an effective member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT). Focused on supporting those aged 11-16+ (wider children, young people, and parents when available) during their time in Haem/Onc through informal individual support, with planned group opportunities for young people to improve peer connection and reduce isolation.

- Providing informal one to one and group activities in the hospital setting. (Primary focus young people with support wider when possible)
- All direct support offered at each shift following check in and update with nursing manager.
- Be an active member of relevant MDT's.
- For families at clinical and target level where there is complex mental health and/or child protection concerns or complex neurodevelopmental needs, the YSW will need to link in with the psycho-oncology clinical lead or another member of the psycho-oncology MDT before providing support. Helping to ensure the appropriate level of support for our most vulnerable families.
- Supporting young people, families and healthcare teams in the process of transition and within guidance as available nationally and locally.
- Be available at least 2 evenings a week and a Saturday or Sunday every 2 weeks.
- Contributing to the design and implementation of programmes to support transition, both in age/development and stages of the cancer pathway.
- Developing age-appropriate methods for involving children, young people and parents in the development and evaluation of services.

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Offer cover and support to the existing Cancer Support Specialist across the Haem/Onc department.

Induction

- Recognising the unique nature of this role, our induction process will include the following:
 - a. CFFC specific induction
 - b. CHI specific induction (policies, training, familiarisation, etc)
 - c. Internal and external supervision
 - d. Introduction to all other relevant charities and the development of mechanisms to ensure strong communication and working relationships.
 - e. Induction/ shadowing opportunity with counterpart in Northern Ireland

1. Operational Accountabilities

- 1.1 Develop, agree, and implement, in conjunction with CFFC Director of Services and key CHI personnel a clear one-year operational plan.
- 1.2 Participate in the Psychosocial multi-disciplinary team meetings and ward rounds.
- 1.3 Promote the Ward based support across the Haem/Onc team, and directly to young people, and their families. With support extended to Day ward, Hoops if needed.
- 1.4 Deliver age appropriate and engaging informal individual support and planned informal group support across the Haem/Onc department.
- 1.5 Establish and maintain close working relationships with Multi-Disciplinary Teams and work in partnership with others to provide, timely and needs led support.
- 1.6 Ensure that any support offered to young people, is based on their needs and works within the agreed Cancer Fund for Children Approach Informal Therapeutic Support Model. Any support works to provide care in line with national guidance and contributes to KPI's and reports for services annually.
- 1.7 Ensure young people are made aware of all available support within the clinical setting, through the wide range of other charitable organisations and wider CFFC support outside the hospital setting, e.g. Daisy Lodge and additional support in the community.
- 1.8 The YSW with the consent of each individual family will use CFFC's current CRM system (CHAMP) to record families' details. (YSW will have their own laptop in line with their work and also an I-pad for general activity-based use with families)
- 1.9 Provide written reports to an agreed standard, reviewing all individual and group-work based on agreed measures and evidence impact/outcomes. To be submitted to CFFC Manager and CNM3 bi-monthly.
- 1.10 Work closely with CFFC Line Manager in the completion of all impact and evaluation requirements linked to the role.
- 1.11 Contribute to the development of new ideas and proposals for delivering services within realistic time frames and realistic budgets.

JOB DESCRIPTION

2. General Accountabilities

- 2.1 Provide accurate data, as determined by the Director of Services and in agreement with CHI, bi-monthly.
- 2.2 Be cognisant and compliant with CFFC policies and procedures designed to meet service delivery requirements and that apply to the organisation as a whole.
- 2.2 Be cognisant and compliant with CHI policies and procedures designed to meet service delivery requirements specific to post-holder's remit.
- 2.3 Ensure designated uniform is always worn within the role and adhere to the 'bare below the elbow' policy and infection control policy.

3. Financial Accountabilities

- 3.1 Work within agreed project expenditure, in line with budgets, up to a limit set by the CFFC Director of Services.
- 3.2 To submit all work-related expenses to CFFC Director of Services on a monthly basis. (Mileage & resources)
- 3.3 To ensure responsibility of all resources held within the post holders' remit, including equipment and facilities. (Agree space for this to be stored)

4. General Duties:

- 4.1 To attend Psychosocial Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings, prepare material and fully contribute to casework discussions where appropriate. Attendance at AYA Cancer MDM may also be required.
- 4.2 To attend CFFC Services Team meetings (Virtually), prepare material and fully contribute to casework discussions. Attend in person quarterly.
- 4.3 To be available for planning, review, supervision, support, and appraisal meetings.
- 4.4 To be available for on-going professional development / training opportunities and to attend all mandatory training. (CFFC specific)
- 4.5 To promote the wider supports and services of CFFC and all other relevant charitable organisations to children, young people and their families.
- 4.6 To promote the work of CHI at Crumlin, including sharing research, patient focused education and events for families.
- 4.7 To represent CFFC as delegated by the Director of Services.
- 4.8 To perform any other reasonable duties and specific projects deemed to be within the post-holder's role, as assigned by management to contribute to the overall aims of the CFFC and CHI Crumlin.
- 4.9 To assist with planned activities and campaigns in conjunction with healthcare teams. For example, play week, AYA cancer awareness week.
- 4.10 Support the development of AYA support within Cancer Fund for Children by facilitating AYA informal therapeutic group residentials and working collaborate with Community services team in Ireland and YSW team across Cancer Fund for Children.

JOB DESCRIPTION

5. Performance

- 5.1 A 6-month probation period will be applied to this role. This will be completed by CFFC with direct and ongoing feedback from CHI link. Ongoing review meeting's will be carried out by the Services Manager alongside the CNM3, seeking feedback from wider team.
- 5.2 Ongoing performance will be monitored and supported through regular reporting and 4 weekly supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications	A Recognised Professional Qualification in one of the following: • Social Work • Social Care • Community Youth work • Play Therapy • Nursing • Therapeutic discipline • Play Specialist • Art therapist Or other relevant professional qualification	• Able to demonstrate clear evidence of ongoing professional development
Experience / Knowledge	• At least 3 years' experience of delivering direct services to children/young people • 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 • Knowledge and awareness of professional boundaries, confidentiality and its limits and duty of care.	• 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
Competencies	• Excellent written and verbal communication skills to include: • Active listening skills • Group facilitation skills • Assessment skills • Strong report writing skills • Monitoring and Evaluation skills • 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 both independently and as part of a team.	

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Key Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Job Circumstances	• Ability to travel as required • Driving licence or alternative means of flexible transport • Work flexible hours including evenings and week-ends (The post will require the post holder to work 2 evenings per week and a Saturday or Sunday every 2 weeks.	

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

Garda Vetting is a requirement of the recruitment process.

Why work for us?

Cancer Fund for Children is a purpose-driven organisation with a clear and inspiring mission: to ensure that no child or young person across the island of Ireland faces cancer alone.

As a Youth Support Worker, you will have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and young people affected by cancer working alongside a multi-disciplinary team in the hospital based setting. Through providing emotional support, building trusted relationships and delivering therapeutic and supportive interventions, you will help young people navigate some of the most challenging times in their lives. This is a particularly exciting time to join Cancer Fund for Children. As we continue to grow and expand our services across the island of Ireland, we are driven by an ambitious vision to reach every child, young person and family impacted by cancer, ensuring that no one has to face their journey alone. In this role, you will play a vital part in bringing that vision to life by supporting young people to build resilience, strengthen wellbeing and access the support they need.

Joining Cancer Fund for Children means becoming part of a passionate, ambitious and collaborative team that believes in the power of connection, compassion and shared responsibility. We encourage new ideas, support professional development and empower our people to work with courage, integrity and purpose as we strive towards a common goal.

This is an opportunity to work in an organisation where your skills and experience will be valued, your contribution will have a lasting impact, and your work will help ensure that more children, young people and families receive the support they need when they need it most.

Staff Benefits Ireland



cancer fund
for children

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
- The offices close during the Christmas week, staff have the option to work the 3 days during this period or to take annual leave. Arrangements should be agreed in advance with your manager.
- 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
- Cross-department team-working/volunteering opportunities
- Private Healthcare

Financial Reward and Recognition

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



Registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC100532).
Registered charity in Ireland (20142681). CHY 21682.

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete the Application Form for this role and email to hr@cancerfundforchildren.com. The deadline for applications is **9th November 2026 at 5.00pm**. If you have any queries about the role or the application process, please contact hr@cancerfundforchildren.com.

Right to Work

All applicants must be legally entitled to live and work in the island of Ireland in accordance with relevant immigration legislation. You will be required to undertake GARDA VET checks.

Criminal Convictions Disclosure

Shortlisted applicants will also be asked to complete a confidential disclosure form regarding any unspent criminal convictions. Neither of these will be disclosed to anyone involved in shortlisting your application.

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act defines disability as a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term effect on the person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

If you consider yourself to have a disability relevant to the role you are applying for, please contact our People & Culture Team. We are committed to ensuring all applications are considered fairly and will endeavour to put in place any necessary arrangements or reasonable adjustments to support you throughout the recruitment process and, if successful, in your role.



TIMELINE

Application Form to be submitted by **9th November 2026 at 5.00pm.**

Interviews

Will take place on **18th and 19th November 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