How can this guide help?
This guide has been written with you in mind, as a Macmillan supporter. It is to give you all the tips you need to be able to engage with your local candidates before the General Election on 8 June 2017.

Why should I speak with my candidates now?
There are 2.5 million people living with cancer, and this is set to rise to 4 million by 2030. Everyone deserves the best possible care and treatment, but sadly not everyone is getting it right now. This is where you come in.

As a voter, your local candidates are campaigning for your vote. They want to know what you care about and the changes you want to see in your local area. If they are elected, their party will be shaping health policy for the next five years. You are key to them recognising that cancer care must be a priority.

Our 2015 General Election campaign saw over 20,000 campaigners take action, speaking to 2258 candidates, and securing two calls in each of the main political party’s manifestos. This has been fundamental to our campaign successes over the last two years.

What is Macmillan campaigning for?
Our Cancer Matters campaign macmillan.org.uk/cancermatters is calling for a commitment from the next Government to make cancer care a priority and implement our calls. By asking candidates to show their support for our calls now, if elected, we will encourage them to hold the Government to account to improve treatment and support for people with cancer. Our calls are:

*Care at the end of life*
Ensure that everyone approaching the end of their lives receive the best possible care and support and can die in the place of their choice.

*Financial support for people with cancer*
No cuts to welfare benefits for people with cancer or their carers.

*Health and care staff*
Ensure that there are enough health and care staff with the right skills so that people with cancer receive world-class treatment and support.

You can find out more about our election calls in our manifesto on our website:

www.macmillan.org.uk/manifesto-2017
What you can do in five minutes
If you haven’t already supported our election campaign, act now using our online campaign tool. You can find it at www.macmillan.org.uk/cancermatters
Take five minutes to tell your candidates that cancer matters and ask them to support our calls. This is a great way to engage with candidates if you don’t have time to meet face-to-face.

Make your time count. Share the campaign with your friends and family by email or on social media – we would love their support too.

What you can do in 10 minutes
A candidate’s knock on the door may take you by surprise, although you may not necessarily get a visit. You can invite them in for tea if you both have the time. Why not keep a note by the door of questions you’d like to ask so you don’t feel lost for words?

What you can do in one hour
If you can have a meeting with one or more of your candidates, this is a chance to have a chat with them about their commitments to our three calls, and how you would like them to support you. Not sure who your local candidates are? Get in touch and we can help.

If you have a personal cancer story, and would like to share it, your experience can help candidates understand what cancer care is like locally. If you have time, research your candidates’ views as this can help to make the conversation easier. You might find it helpful to practise talking about your experience with a friend before the meeting. It can also help to write a few lines about why cancer matters to you and some questions to ask. Take this with you to the meeting. We’ve provided some example questions in the section below.

Try not to feel disappointed if the conversation doesn’t go as expected. Your candidates may counter your points, so it’s worth thinking about how you might respond. Remember, even if they don’t agree with you, that doesn’t mean they won’t act on your behalf if elected. Writing to your candidates to say thank you after the meeting is important, as this will help you to build a good relationship with them.

We’d also love to hear how you get on. Please email us at campaigns@macmillan.org.uk

What you can do in two hours
A hustings is a public event where you have the chance to ask your candidates about what they stand for. As this is an unexpected General Election, very few people will have had a chance to organise a hustings event. If there is a hustings organised in your area, you’ll likely see it advertised in your local newspaper and lots are advertised on www.eventbrite.co.uk, where you can sign up for a ticket. If you are struggling to find one in your local area, get in touch with us and we can have a look for you.

Questions you may like to ask at any of these
- If elected, what will your party do to ensure there are enough health and care staff, so people with cancer receive world-class treatment and support?
- How will your party make sure that there are no cuts to welfare benefits for people with cancer or their carers?
- How will your party ensure that everyone reaching the end of their life receives the best possible care and support and can die in the place of their choosing?

Where can I get further information?
We are the campaigns team at Macmillan, and we want to hear from you if you have any questions, comments, compliments, or complaints. You can call us on 020 7840 7840, or email us at campaigns@macmillan.org.uk
For more information about our campaigns visit www.macmillan.org.uk/campaigns

UK Office, 89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7UQ. Questions about living with cancer? Call the Macmillan Support Line free on 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk