

COLLABORATION FOR BETTER CANCER CARE GRANT

INFORMATION PACK

September 2026



Welcome

Across the UK, health and care services, councils, community organisations and people affected by cancer are working together to improve care in their local area. But even when partners know what needs to change, finding the funding to put ideas into practice can be difficult.

At Macmillan, we know that no single organisation can meet all the needs of people affected by cancer. By working together, partners can provide more joined-up care and make better use of local expertise.

That's why we are proud to be launching the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant to support locally led partnerships to put ideas into action, test what works and help create more joined-up cancer care closer to home.

Visit the **Macmillan [Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant webpage](#)**

Who are Macmillan?

Macmillan Cancer Support has spent more than 100 years helping people living with cancer. We know that cancer can disrupt your whole life. And it can be made worse simply because of who you are and where you live.

But we're here to change that.

The number of people diagnosed with cancer is growing, and every one of them needs the best support to meet their unique needs. That's why we'll do whatever it takes to help everyone living with cancer across the UK get the support they need right now and transform cancer care for everyone who will be diagnosed in the future

Read on to find out more about

- Overview of the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant
- Initiatives this grant will fund
- Impact this grant can have
- Available funding
- Application process and timeline
- Eligibility criteria
- How to register your Interest
- Accessibility support
- Illustrative initiatives

What is the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant?

- Macmillan's Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant is our first-of-its-kind funding which supports public sector health organizations, local authorities and community organisations to work together to implement initiatives that could revolutionise cancer care locally.
- Through flexible funding and shared learning, this grant will support local partnerships to put ideas into action, test what works and build understanding of how we can create more joined-up cancer care closer to home.
- Supporting Macmillan's Neighbourhood Health ambitions, this grant will back local approaches that aim to make cancer care easier to navigate and test how flexible funding and stronger collaborations can make this happen.
- Flexible funding will support local partnerships to propose approaches which are based on their local cancer care needs. Rather than requiring every partnership to deliver the same predetermined solution, organisations can design and adapt approaches around local priorities, opportunities and challenges, and where they believe the funding can make the greatest difference.

The grant is open to eligible organisations and partnerships across the UK and Isle of Man.

What will the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant fund?

- **Organisations working together to tackle a local cancer care challenge-** The Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant provides flexible funding for local partnerships to address cancer care challenges in their communities, bringing together health and care services, community organisations and people with lived experience to work together around these shared goals.
- **Partnerships putting a developed idea into action-** The Grant will support established local partnerships with ready to test initiatives and implement approaches that reflect local needs, strengthen collaboration and ultimately make cancer care more joined-up and easier to navigate for people affected by cancer.
- **Local communities and people with lived experience help shape the solution** - People with lived experience and local communities should have a meaningful role in shaping the cancer care they receive. The Grant will support partnerships to test and implement solutions with communities, with a particular focus on people who face the greatest barriers to cancer care.
- **Partnerships test, learn and share what they discover** - This grant will help build understanding of conditions for change in cancer care and what make local partnerships successful. The Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant gives an opportunity for organisations to iterate and adapt their approaches, while generating learning that can help shape future investment in local cancer care systems.

What do we hope the grant will achieve?

In the next three years, the grant aims to support:

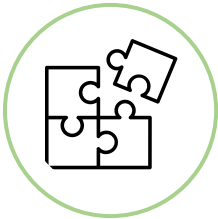
- Local organisations work together more effectively on cancer care.
- Make cancer care more joined-up and easier to navigate.
- Ensure cancer care solutions are shaped by local communities and lived experience.
- Improve cancer care and support for people who face the greatest barriers.
- Build our understanding of what helps local partnerships succeed and conditions for change in cancer care.

The insights and connections developed through the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant will help inform future investments, including further iterations of this grant programme to create more joined-up cancer care closer to home.

Grant Overview

- **Funding amount:** We are offering grants of between **£100,000 and £500,000 for the initiative** to support partners to turn ideas into action, making cancer care more joined-up, easier to navigate and closer to home.
- Applicants are expected to plan for evaluation to understand the difference their initiative is making and what they are learning along the way. Funding for evaluation is available through the grant programme, **with up to 10% of initiative cost (maximum amount £50,000) to support these activities.**
- **Duration:** Funding will be available for initiatives lasting between **one and three years.**
- **Location:** Open to eligible organisations and partnerships across the UK and Isle of Man.

What is the Expression of Interest timeline?



At-a-glance

GRANT WEBPAGE LIVE

Information on grant purpose, objective and eligibility criteria

2026

1 September



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST OPEN

Expression of Interest goes live for applicants to register their interest.

2026

7 September



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST CLOSE

Expression of Interest closes*

2026

20 September



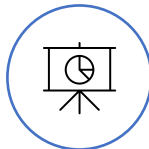
*We may close the EOI form early if we receive a very high number of applications

OUTCOME OF EOI

Applicants know whether they have reached the Stage-2 although this date is still to be confirmed.

2026

Week commencing 28th Sept



FULL APPLICATION WINDOW

Shortlisted applicants invited to complete full application

2026

5 October to 2 November



Which organisations can apply?

Host organisation applying for the grant must be one of the following:

- Voluntary, community, faith or social enterprise (VCFSE) organisation based in the UK, including:
 - Registered charities
 - Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
 - Community Interest Company (CIC)
 - Company Limited by Guarantee
 - Faith-based organisation
- Public sector health organisations like NHS bodies in England, NHS Wales Health Boards and Trusts, NHS Scotland Boards, and Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts in Northern Ireland, Cancer Networks, Cancer Alliances, NHS Territorial Boards, Integration Joint Boards, Managed Clinical Networks, Integrated Care Boards
- Local Authorities or Local government body
- Another eligible organisation involved in delivering health, care or community support.

Which organisations cannot apply?

Host Organizations that cannot apply for the grant are:

- Informal support groups without a legal structure (Unincorporated groups)
- Unregistered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) or Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Universities and Higher Educational Colleges
- Individual healthcare professionals
- Commercial businesses and sole traders
- Organisations without a partnership-led initiative.
- Private and public limited companies.

What are the Eligibility Criteria for Expression of Interest? Before you apply, check that:

- Your organisation is eligible for the grant and a registered body in the UK.
- Host organisation has current, published accounts income above 50% of total requested grant amount. The Host will be responsible for undertaking appropriate financial due diligence and risk assessment of all sub-grantee partners.
- Host organisation must have free reserves of a minimum of 3 months.
- This funding is towards a new project or an evolution of an existing idea.
- Requested funds cover 100% of the anticipated total initiative cost for the duration of the grant period and you will not require third party funding during the grant period.
- Host Organisation has, or will have access to appropriate financial management, governance and assurance processes to manage this grant responsibly.
- Host Organisation has identified at least one partner (minimum one voluntary, community, faith or social enterprise organisation) that has agreed to actively collaborate in developing and delivering the proposed project.
- Proposed initiative avoids all activities listed as ineligible here: party political activity ; promotion of religion or religious worship; activities where the primary purpose is academic research; grant-making to third parties; retrospective funding; statutory activities
- You are not seeking funding for an initiative or activities that replicates, duplicates or mirrors an initiative currently being funded by Macmillan or have been funded within the last 12 months. Organisations may hold more than one Macmillan grant, provided each grant supports a separate and distinct initiative.

When we assess Expression of Interests, we'll be looking at five things:

- **Local Need** - Assess whether the application presents a clear, local cancer care need, supported by relevant evidence and demonstrates why it requires a partnership response.
- **Proposed Approach** - Assess whether the proposed approach is a logical response to the identified need and has been shaped by local knowledge, community insight and lived experience.
- **Partnership** - Assess whether the proposal demonstrates genuine partnership working, with all partners actively collaborating and adding distinct value.
- **Intended Impact** - Assess whether the proposal clearly explains the difference it hopes to make and how people experiencing the greatest barriers will help shape that change.
- **Learning** - Assess whether the proposal demonstrates a clear commitment to testing, learning and sharing insights that could improve future cancer care.

% Weighting of assessment areas	
Local Need	25%
Proposed Approach	20%
Partnership	25%
Intended Impact	20%
Learning	10%

How to register your interest?

- Expressions of Interest open from 09:00 BST on 7 September 2026 to 23:59 BST on 20 September 2026.
- Before applying:
 - ✓ Read this Information Pack.
 - ✓ Check that your organisation and partnership are eligible.
 - ✓ Download [the Word version of the Expression of Interest form](#) to prepare your answers.
 - ✓ Submit your answers through [the online Expression of Interest form](#).
 - ✓ Applicants will know whether they have reached the full application stage during the week commencing 28 September 2026.

We expect to receive more applications than we can fund, so we encourage you to apply as early as possible. We may close the Expressions of Interest form early if we receive a very high number of applications.

What is the Two staged Application process?

I. Stage 1: Expression of Interest:

- We'll assess your Expression of Interest against the published eligibility and assessment criteria.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

II. Stage 2: Full application:

- We'll assess full applications and supporting information against the published criteria.
- A decision panel will then select the initiatives that will receive funding.

Need help with your application?

If you need help completing your Expression of Interest, or need this information in a different format, please contact us at : BetterCancerCareTeam@macmillan.org.uk

Contact us

If you have a question about the Collaboration for Better Cancer Care Grant grant or application process, email: BetterCancerCareTeam@macmillan.org.uk

To ensure a fair and transparent process, we are unable to advise on whether individual initiatives are suitable for funding through this grant.



Illustrative initiative

Every local area is different, and we're not looking for one type of initiative. The following fictional initiative offers a practical illustration of the types of activity this grant is seeking to support.

Illustration: Cancer Community Partnership Hubs

Cross-sector partnership between Primary Care Networks and neighbourhood teams, NHS cancer services and Cancer Nurse Specialists, local authority public health and adult social care teams, VCSE organisations, community anchor organisations, faith groups, social prescribing link workers, and people with lived experience of cancer and long-term conditions.

Host organisation: NHS cancer services **Partnerships:** Primary Care Networks, VCFSE organisations, Adult Social Care Teams, Local Authority

Grant funding: £500,000 **Evaluation funding:** £50,000 (additional 10% of grant value) **Working together:** 3 years

Project Summary:

- Establish and test neighbourhood-based partnership hubs, bringing together health, local authority and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) partners to provide holistic support for people affected by cancer and long-term conditions.
- Hubs will act as trusted local access points, helping individuals navigate practical, emotional, financial and wellbeing support within their communities.
- Focus on supporting people in rural and deprived communities and improving access for groups who may face barriers to engaging with traditional services, including people with learning disabilities.

Co-design and embedding lived experience:

- Embedding wider lived experience will form part of this project.
- People with lived experience will be involved throughout as equal partners in design, delivery and evaluation to help shape hub locations, service offers, communications, referral pathways and approaches to reducing barriers to access, including transport, digital exclusion, language, confidence and stigma.
- Lived experience partners will also participate in reflection and learning sessions.

Illustration: Cancer Community Partnership Hubs

Monitoring and Learning Approach

- Evaluation will be independently designed.
- Evaluation activities may include activity monitoring, participant feedback, case studies, partner reflection sessions, partnership mapping and ongoing learning logs.
- Interim learning and evaluation reports will be produced to identify emerging findings, highlight what is working well, identify areas for improvement, and inform iterative development.
- A final learning report will synthesise findings from the design, testing and implementation phases, incorporating perspectives from both people with lived experience and professional workforce.

Expected benefits:

- Improved access to support for people affected by cancer
- Stronger partnerships between cancer services, primary care, local authorities and VCFSE organisations.
- Improved integration between cancer support, long-term condition management and wider wellbeing services.
- Reduced variation in access to community-based support across neighbourhoods.

Success will be measured through

- Equity of access and reach across different communities and population groups.
- User experience measures, including surveys, feedback and case studies. Integration with wider health, wellbeing and community services.
- Learning regarding the most effective venues, delivery approaches, partnerships and engagement methods.

Ready to apply?

Expressions of Interest open on 7
September 2026

Before you apply:	Read this Information Pack
	Check your organisation and partnership are eligible
	Prepare your answers
	Submit your expression of interest by 20th September 2026