

Citizens Advice and Macmillan working together to help with the cost of cancer

The Citizens Advice Cornwall / Macmillan Project provides welfare benefits and grants advice to people across Cornwall diagnosed with cancer, and to their family and carers. We work with Macmillan professionals in Cornwall to provide support to those affected by cancer.

Research by Macmillan found that four out of five people are, on average, £570 a month worse off as a result of a cancer diagnosis. Having a cancer diagnosis can dramatically affect someone's financial circumstances. You or a family member may no longer be able to work and outgoings may increase due to: travelling to hospital for treatment, having higher heating bills because you are at home more or have an increased sensitivity to feeling the cold, or you may have a change in dietary requirements or suffer from weight gain or loss so clothes no longer fit properly. All this can put a huge financial strain on someone at an already very difficult time.

We provide a service that helps a client negotiate the benefits system, we identify which benefits can be claimed and consider ways in which to maximise income, and calculate benefits for changes in circumstances. We help with making welfare benefit claims; contacting third parties, form filling, assisting with mandatory reconsiderations and appeals. We provide as much support as is wanted ensuring that you are both kept informed and advising you on your options.

Clients can be advised at appointments, by telephone or at the drop-in session at the Royal Cornwall Hospital.

People undergoing or recovering from cancer treatment should not have the additional worry of how to pay for absolute basics such as heating their home, or bedding to keep warm. Macmillan grants help towards the costs of vital essentials and practical household items.

With **Citizens Advice Cornwall** and **Macmillan** working together no one should have to face cancer alone.

www.citizensadvicecornwall.org.uk

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MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**