# NHSE funding to support the development of Chemotherapy Nurses 2024/25

## Information for South East Cancer Alliances on how to access this funding, including the application process.

For any queries about this funding or details within this document, please contact the **NHS England South East Cancer and Diagnostic Programme,** part of the **Workforce, Training & Education directorate**, england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Key Messages**

## 2024/25 funding for the NHS England South East Cancer & Diagnostics (C&D) Programme, part of the Workforce, Training & Education Directorate (WT&E) has not yet been confirmed.

## We are hopeful that the 2024/25 C&D Programme budget will include funding to support the *development of Chemotherapy Nurses* and we are therefore progressing with the application stage; applications will be reviewed and provisionally approved, subject to funding confirmation from the National Cancer & Diagnostics Programme.

This document details the 2024/25 offer to support the **development of Chemotherapy Nurses via an NHSE training grant.**

**This funding is:**

* aimed at existing and/or aspiring Chemotherapy Nurses to enable them to undertake training and education to develop in this role and support the cancer workforce.
* Being offered to all NHS Trusts within SE Cancer Alliance geographies. This includes Trusts within Dorset ICS [Wessex CA] and Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [Thames Valley CA]

**Deadline for funding applications**

* **The application window will open early March and will close at 9am on Tuesday 2 April 2024** to support funding being transferred in June 2024 via the NHSE Education Contract schedule where possible.
* It is possible that a second application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.

Funding is required to be spent and fully utilised by 31 March 2025, and chosen courses and formal education must start **before** 31 March 2025, where applicable.

For any queries, please email england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Overview**

## NHS England South East Cancer & Diagnostics Programme is offering 2024/25 training grants to support the development of Chemotherapy Nurses, recognizing the need to ensure sufficient numbers of chemotherapy nurses to treat newly-diagnosed patients.

## The offer is aimed at existing and aspiring Chemotherapy Nurses to enable them to undertake training and education to develop in this role and support the cancer workforce.

## Following completion of the identified training, national expectations are that the participant will be able to demonstrate capability and integration of their new skills into local service provision. Participants may also be able to evidence career progression, for example by subsequent development into a specialist / advanced practice role.

**The funding offer**

The funding being made available is training grants of **up to £1500 per individual**. These can be used to cover:

* Course fees [postgraduate or development programmes]
* Travel and accommodation expenses
* salary or backfill costs and for clinical supervision/mentorship.

The grants can be used by Cancer Alliances to:

* Fund an individual training grant; whereby an individual meeting the criteria applies to undertake learning and development courses or study;

and/or

* Fund training for a group of professionals; whereby the Alliance commissions bespoke training for a group of professionals to meet an identified need/priority.

Areas of study would be expected to be relevant to the development journey and role of the Chemotherapy Nurse and will likely fall within cancer care. Other areas may be supported at the discretion of the Cancer Alliance if there is an understanding of the contribution the development will have on the individual/s.

Grants can be provided for courses that run for longer than one year, up to the funding limit of £1500 per person, but the funding is for 2024/25 only, and must be fully spent by 31 March 2025.

We ask that Alliances work with their Trusts and networks to decide on how best to utilise this funding based on the options and further information detailed in this document [please see Appendix A].

Below are some examples of types of courses and subject matter:

* Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) courses and SACT passport,
* Short Courses - Chemotherapy Principles and Developing Practice
* Haemato-oncology modules/courses
* The biology of cancer and its treatments
* Contribution towards MSc, PGDIP, PGCERT in specialist oncology courses
* Enhanced understanding of personalised care and support planning.
* Advances in cancer treatment e.g., genomics, immunotherapies
* Consequences of cancer and its treatments-minimising the long-term side-effects of
* Advanced communication skills training and managing difficult conversations.
* Psychological skills training and support people in distress
* Supporting themselves and their teams with emotional resilience and wellbeing
* Project management and leadership opportunities that support the development of an innovation or improvement to patient services.

Funding for study days and conferences should in the first instance be sought from employer access to CPD funding available for nurses.

It is worth noting that many charities, professional bodies and other organizations offer free workshops, training and development. Exploring these may widen and add to the opportunities to broaden the knowledge, skills and subsequent care across the cancer alliance footprint.

**How to access this funding**

Cancer Alliances are responsible for submitting applications for this funding on behalf of their partner NHS Trusts. Please use the online application form – the link can be found in the covering email. Please note that applications from individual Trusts and learners will not be considered. Please submit only one return for your Cancer Alliance.

The application window will close at **9am on Tuesday 2 April 2024.**

All applications will be reviewed by the NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme team [WT&E]. It is possible that a second application round will run later in the year, subject to available funding but at this stage we aren’t able to confirm this.

Cancer Alliances will have the opportunity to confirm whether they prefer to receive and manage the funding or request this is paid directly to the relevant organisation listed within the application reporting form.

**Expectations of organisations upon application of funding**

* If approved, all investment will be subject to reporting requirements (outlined below).
* If approved, that all funding is managed appropriately in line with individual organisation’s financial management and assurance processes.

**Reporting and monitoring investment**

NHSE SE are required to provide full details of the use of this funding to the national NHSE Cancer and Diagnostics programme so that investment can be appropriately reported. Where funding has been used to support an individual, the national Programme team may keep a database of participant details (to include role, Trust, HEI/training provider).

Organisations receiving this funding will be required to provide twice-yearly updates [Sept 2024 and Feb/March 2025] relating to the status of each individual learner; guidance and templates will be provided later in the year.

**Who to contact if you have any queries on this offer?**

The NHSE SE Cancer and Diagnostics Programme - england.canceranddiagnostics.se@nhs.net

**Other Information**

**NHS Long Term Workforce Plan (2023)**

The long-awaited [NHS England Long Term Workforce Plan](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-v1.2.pdf) was published in 2023, outlining the case for change for all NHS workforce to deliver more patient care than ever before. This plan focuses on three priority areas of Train, Retain and Reform, which aims to make sustainable progress on core priorities for patients.

**Appendix A - Frequently Asked Questions**

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| **Question** | **Response**  |
| **What is the funding period?**  | All grants must be utilised within the 2024/24 financial year, so by 31 March 2025 |
| **What is the aim of the funding?**  | The aim of this funding is to support Existing and aspiring Chemotherapy Nurses to enable them to undertake training and education to develop in this role and support the cancer workforce |
| **How can this funding be utilised?** | * Option 1: provide individual grants of up to £1500 per person to undertake learning and development at postgraduate or advanced level, or
 |
| * Option 2: fund training for a group of professionals; whereby the Alliance purchases or develops bespoke training for a group of professionals to meet an identified need/priority
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| * Option 3: A combination of the option 1 and 2
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| **What can this funding be used for?**  | Course fees (postgraduate or advanced development programmes for example), advanced communication skills, master’s level postgraduate study, specialist postgraduate study. Plans should be for a single activity or programme. Where the application is for a modular programme, details should be provided of each module. |
| Travel, subsistence, and associated training costs |
| Training grant to support the individual’s development which could for example include provision for salary support and supervision/mentorship |
| Grants can be used to fund salary or backfill costs as part of facilitating the individual to attend the course; Full details should be provided on the application. |
| **What can’t this funding be used for?**  | Funding for study days and conferences should in the first instance be sought from employer access to CPD funding available for nurses. Funding cannot be used to purchase kit & equipment  |
| **What are the requirements of accepting this funding** | By submitting an application, managers are agreeing to release this person for training. |
| Saving for extenuating circumstances, non-completion of any training may incur NHSE seeking return of some or all of funding given |
| Following completion of the identified training need, the participant will be expected to demonstrate capability and integration of their new skills into local service provision. Participants may also be able to evidence career progression, for example by subsequent development into a specialist / advanced practice role. |