

Scottish Cancer Conference 2026

Breakout Session Guidance

Overview of the event

The Scottish Cancer Conference is a unique gathering of individuals and organisations involved with cancer, from patients to pharmaceutical companies and from clinicians to charities. The next conference will take place on **Monday 23rd November 2026** at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre, The Exchange, 150 Morrison St, Edinburgh, EH3 8EE.

This is a non-commercial event organised and funded by Cancer Research UK on behalf of the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Cancer. Last year, the event brought together 200 delegates from a wide range of organisations and backgrounds to hear from a number of key speakers. Further information about last year's event is available on [our website](#).

Attendees

The conference is designed for individuals affected by cancer as well as those working across politics, healthcare, research, and related fields who have an interest in cancer and cancer-related issues. Attendees typically include:

Politicians	General Practitioners
Charities	Nurses
Patient support groups	Pharmaceutical companies
Patients and carers	Pharmacists
Scientists and researchers	Civil servants
Secondary care clinicians	

This Year's Scottish Cancer Conference Theme

We are pleased to announce that this year's theme will be **Nothing About Us Without Us: Putting People at the Heart of Cancer Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment, Care and Research.**

We want to place people affected by cancer — patients, families, carers and communities — at the heart of every conversation. From preventing cancer to improving early detection, delivering timely, kinder and better treatment, supporting people to live well with and beyond cancer, enhancing palliative care and accelerating vital research, the conference will explore how Scotland's cancer system can be strengthened when it is developed in partnership with

those who use it, not just by those who deliver it. By embedding lived experience throughout the day's sessions and placing patient and public insight on equal footing with professional expertise, the conference aims to reimagine a cancer system that is even more compassionate, collaborative and truly person-centred.

Breakout Session Opportunities

This year's conference will feature **six breakout sessions**, delivered across **two time slots**, with each breakout session lasting for an hour (please note the exact timings of these slots may be subject to change):

- **Morning:** 11:40–12:40
- **Afternoon:** 13:40–14:40

We're seeking expressions of interest from organisations that would like to host a session. The breakout sessions will focus on the core stages of the cancer pathway.

Morning Sessions

Breakout 1 – Prevention

We welcome proposals for sessions that explore ways to reduce cancer risk and incidence, for example through public health approaches, early intervention, improving screening uptake, or tackling inequalities.

Breakout 2 – Diagnosis

We encourage session ideas that focus on improving early and timely diagnosis, such as raising awareness, access to tests, diagnostic pathways, innovation, and addressing delays or inequalities.

Breakout 3 – Treatment

We are looking for proposals covering cancer treatment and care, including access to therapies, models of service delivery, workforce challenges, innovation, and improving patient outcomes and experience.

Afternoon Sessions

Breakout 4 – Living With and Beyond Cancer

We welcome sessions on supporting people living with and beyond cancer, as well as their families, friends and carers, with a focus on quality of life, rehabilitation, long-term side effects, mental health, and support to return or adapt to everyday life.

Breakout 5 – Palliative and End-of-Life Care

We invite proposals that explore care and support for people with advanced cancer, including symptom management, holistic and community-based care, and support for patients, families and carers.

Breakout 6 – Research

We encourage sessions that highlight cancer research and innovation, including clinical trials, data and evidence, translating research into practice, and opportunities to improve outcomes through research.

Criteria for applying for a breakout session

Before submitting your application, please ensure you have taken the following criteria into account when planning your breakout session:

- As this year's theme focuses on placing people affected by cancer at the centre of every discussion, each breakout session must feature at least one patient speaker.
- A maximum of four speakers or panellists is permitted per session.
- Each breakout room can accommodate up to 100 attendees in a theatre-style layout. Please specify your preferred room layout in the application form.
- If you wish to propose sessions under different themes, a separate application must be submitted for each, clearly indicating the relevant theme.
- Applications involving collaboration with other organisations are encouraged; please provide details of any partnership arrangements within your submission.

What is included in the breakout session

- Full details of the breakout session will be featured in the printed Scottish Cancer Conference programme and speaker details will be featured on our website. Please note that final content must be submitted **by Friday 28 August**.
- Each breakout room is equipped with an 80-inch plasma screen, along with two PA systems and microphones. If you require any further tech, please do outline this in your application so we can check availability with the venue.
- Breakout session hosts will receive **four complimentary conference passes**, which include lunch and refreshments, to allocate to session leads. Any additional passes required must be purchased separately.
- An external agency or CRUK staff member will take notes during each session, with key discussions and outcomes captured in the post-conference report.
- A conference photographer will be present on the day, and live updates will be shared via the [@ScotCancerConf](https://twitter.com/ScotCancerConf) X account.

How to express interest in hosting a breakout session

Organisations interested in hosting a breakout session will need to apply by sending the proposed session title, a synopsis of the session (maximum 200 words), session format, details of speakers and session leads, session aims and objectives, and timings. Expressions of interest will then be reviewed and decisions made by the conference team based on these criteria.

To register interest in hosting a session at this year's conference, please complete this [Microsoft Form](#). The deadline for applications is **COP Monday 29th June**. The session proposals will then be reviewed and those who have expressed interest will be notified of the outcome the week beginning **27th July**.

Once breakout sessions have been confirmed, applications for exhibition stands will open. Please note that organisations selected to host a breakout session will not be eligible to apply for an exhibition stand, as we want to ensure as many organisations and individuals are able to contribute to the event.

If you have any questions regarding hosting a session, please get in touch with the conference team at scotcancerconf@cancer.org.uk.