



Annual Report **2024**

Driver Coffee Mornings Let's Connect!!

Join Cancer Connect for a coffee and a catch up. Meet your fellow Drivers, ask questions, make comments, shape the service...Everyone is welcome to attend any or all dates.

Each session starts at 11am and finishes at 1pm. Refreshments Included!!

15 TH APRIL	Clonakilty Park Hotel
17 TH APRIL	Cork Education & Training Board, Castletownbere P75 X674
22 ND APRIL	Red Store, Youghal P36 XH10
7 TH MAY	Maritime Hotel Bantry
8 TH MAY	Gilbert Centre, Mallow Community Campus, P51 AT86
15 TH MAY	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen
18 TH SEPT	Clonakilty Park Hotel *
24 TH SEPT	IRD Duhallow, Newmarket
1 ST OCT	West Cork Hotel, Skibbereen
2 ND OCT	Midleton Park Hotel*
7 TH OCT	Maritime Hotel, Bantry
4 TH NOV	Gilbert Centre, Mallow Community Campus, P51 AT86
5 TH NOV	Cork Education & Training Board, Castletownbere, P75 X674
18 TH NOV	Red Store, Youghal, P36 XH10



* These sessions include a Road Safety Promotion Workshop, delivered by Cork County Council, discussing vehicle management & security, winter ready driving etc.

Please RSVP 2 weeks before the session you will attend to Helen 085 2660918 or 021 2038525 or helen@cancerconnect.ie or let us know if you need more details.



Find us on
facebook

CONTENTS

3

Executive Summary

4

Acknowledgements

5

Board & Staff
Members

6

Chairmans Message

7

Manager's Review

8

Values, Aims and
Objectives

9

The work of the
Organisation

12

Cancer Connect 2024:
A year in review

17

Financial Report

Call **021 2038525**
Email **info@cancerconnect.ie**
www.cancerconnect.ie

Block 2, Warner Centre, Barrack Street,
Bantry, Co. Cork P75 EV96
CHY Number: 22770.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cancer Connect was established in April 2011 as a transportation service initially operated by Local Link Cork. Recognising the local need in West Cork for reliable transport to cancer treatment appointments at Cork Hospitals, consultations with CUH, MUH, and South Infirmary confirmed the importance of tailored transport solutions for cancer patients. In response, Local Link Cork acquired an 8-seater vehicle, and the community rallied to assemble a team of volunteers willing to drive patients to CUH for radiotherapy sessions. This initiative marked the birth of Cancer Connect, which officially registered as a CLG in 2021.

It soon became evident that patients attending radiotherapy also required additional transport for consultations with specialists, chemotherapy appointments, scans, and procedures. To meet this growing need, more volunteers joined the effort, many using their own vehicles to provide transportation.

The demand for the service expanded rapidly, prompting the establishment of a second radiotherapy route along the Castletownbere/Bantry corridor in October of the same year. By 2016, the service had extended to cover Duhallow/North Cork, and by the end of 2020, Cancer Connect was operating across East Cork, evolving into a county-wide cancer transport network.

The staffing of the service grew from a single member to two, and by 2022, a team of three staff members was in place. This allowed two staff members to handle daily bookings and passenger support, while the third focused on fundraising, marketing, and overall management.

Volunteers remain the foundation of Cancer Connect; currently, there are 457 registered drivers on the panel. From the Board of Management and community fundraisers to the dedicated drivers transporting patients with kindness and reliability, each member plays an essential role in ensuring the service remains efficient, accessible, free, and dependable.

In 2024, Cancer Connect experienced significant growth, with increases in drivers, passengers, and journeys making the service busier than ever. This expansion prompted a move into dedicated premises after 13 years housed by Local Link Cork—marking a major milestone. The new office provides space for public inquiries, confidential consultations, and a dedicated reception area. The Tánaiste, Micheál Martin, officially launched the premises in October 2024.

This year also saw an inaugural charity partnership with Boston Scientific Cork, which proved highly successful. Additionally, Cancer Connect was proud to become an Associate Member of the National Cancer Control Programme, confirming its vital role as a cancer support organisation in Ireland.

By December 2024, the service had recorded over 58,000 passenger journeys, reflecting its vital contribution to the community.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Local Link Cork (LLC) Board and staff team. Cancer Connect began as a small initiative, delivered through LLCs leadership. In 2024, Cancer Connect took a significant step forward, with independent premises. This transition was made seamless thanks to the unwavering support, encouragement, and generosity of the Local Link Cork team. We are deeply appreciative of the continued goodwill and collaboration from our neighbours at LLC. Your commitment to partnership and shared purpose has helped us grow stronger as we work together to support our community. To the entire team who continues to stand beside us—as colleagues, partners, and friends—we thank you for walking this journey with us.

We are deeply grateful to our incredible community—drivers, fundraisers, allies—whose collective efforts have made a meaningful difference. Your dedication and teamwork have helped develop and deliver a service that lightens the burden of a cancer journey for many. Thank you all for your hard work and commitment in ensuring our service thrives.



Cancer Connect was delighted to become an Associate Member of the National Cancer Control Programme Alliance in 2024. The NCCP works with Partners to prevent cancer, treat cancer, and improve survival and quality of life for people with cancer.



Membership in the Alliance

Goals of the Alliance

To develop a forum for community-based cancer support organisations which includes:

- information sharing
- education
- collaborative working
- networking opportunities

To support connections between:

- cancer centres
- treatment hospitals
- community cancer support services
- primary care

Mission of the Alliance

- Provide information, support and growth opportunities to community cancer support providers.
- Support cancer support services to become full partners in the patient pathway.
- Ensure people with cancer and their families can get the support they need, close to home.

Vision of the Alliance

An Ireland where anyone affected by cancer can access reliable support and rehabilitation. Trained professionals provide these services in communities around Ireland.

Values of the Alliance

- **Inclusive:** We serve anyone affected by cancer in Ireland, including families and friends.
- **Collaborative:** We support partnerships to achieve The Alliance's vision and goals.
- **Evidence-Based:** We use proven approaches to ensure quality cancer survivorship support.
- **Progressive:** We help members grow and improve to provide the best services possible.

"I just want to say how delighted I am to be associated with Cancer Connect and its people. I simply love what I do, and get more from my participation than any other activity in retirement. Míle buiochas díbh go leir."

"Thank you very much for my journey to radium clinic in Cork. Fantastic drivers everyone!"

BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Cancer Connect meets every 10-12 weeks and may be called together at any particular time. With responsibility to oversee service delivery, staff management and financial control, the Board is made up of 11 Directors that govern Cancer Connect.



Front Row: Michael Crowley (Treasurer), Phyllis McCarthy, Joan Coughlan, Mary Twomey Casey, Sinead Crowley, Con McCarthy (Vice Chairperson)
Back Row: David O'Brien (Secretary) , Jim Stack, Neillie O'Leary (Chairperson) , Angus O'Connor, Dan Murphy (PRO)

STAFF MEMBERS



Staff Team L to R: David Hegarty (Tús), Sinead Keohane, Helen O'Driscoll, Karen O'Connor, Jane de la Cour (Volunteer), Sandra Harrington (CE) (Missing Tommy Coppinger Tús).

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

To my fellow Board members, I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort you all contribute. Given the diverse locations from which we travel—north, south, east, and west—we made the decision to change our traditional meeting venue from Bantry to Bandon, aiming to make it more accessible and central for everyone. The expertise you contribute to every meeting has fortified the company's strength and versatility, enabling us to deliver with exceptional governance.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the staff for their vital role and dedicated efforts. We are fortunate to have a strong team in the office, Karen, Sinéad, Helen and Sandra, and I am consistently impressed by how they handle their responsibilities, especially when engaging with the public. Their ability to communicate effectively with drivers and passengers while managing complex logistics is truly commendable. Well done to each and every one of them.

I also welcome the €50,000 funding allocated to Cancer Connect in 2024. I hope this marks the beginning of a sustainable, recurring funding stream, allowing us to have an ongoing annual allocation that will ensure the continued strength and availability of our services for those who need them.

Cancer Connect officially moved into a new office in 2024, and what a fantastic launch it was! We were honoured to have An Tánaiste Micheál Martin officially opening our new premises. The event drew an incredible turnout – with public representatives, county wide drivers, and our community friends all showing up in force. A vibrant crowd of 370 filled the venue with energy and positivity, making them the true highlight of the day. The launch event at The Maritime Hotel in Bantry was a great success – guests mingled, chatted, and enjoyed the atmosphere for over three hours. It was truly a memorable and proud occasion for everyone involved.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to the communities that continue to support Cancer Connect through their fundraising efforts. We envision a co-funding model where both the state and the community share responsibility for how the service is delivered. This year, community contributions accounted for nearly 80% of our running costs, highlighting their vital role in sustaining the service. Their involvement not only helps keep the service running but also empowers them to have a strong voice in promoting and advocating for what we do.

Cancer Connect experienced a successful year in 2024. I look forward to the coming year, hoping it will bring similarly meaningful and positive local contributions.



Neillie O'Leary has been on the Board of Local Link Cork since 2005 and was vital in establishing Cancer Connect initially as a Local Link Cork service, and ultimately as an independent Company. Neillie has been Chairperson of Cancer Connect since it began trading in 2021. Neillie is an active member of various community initiatives; in 2022 he won the Paddy Fitzgerald Award recognising his spirit of volunteerism and selfless dedication to the betterment of his community.

MANAGER'S REVIEW

Helen O'Driscoll BA, HDip, MSocSc
Manager, Cancer Connect.

Reflecting on the year's work, it is important to recognise how rapidly our service has grown. Cancer Connect continued to meet the increased need for cancer transport in such a smooth, positive and holistic manner while demand grew exponentially. 2024 recorded 8,134 passenger journeys signifying a tremendous amount of travel between home and the hospital. Each year, I marvel on the achievements of our strong community that makes this a reality.

The 20% increase in 2024 journeys on the previous year was mirrored by an increase on the driving panel and passengers registering for transport. By December 2024, the number of passenger journeys recorded since we began reached over 58,000. We expect that the need for cancer transport will only grow. The Irish Cancer Society anticipates that the number of cancer diagnoses in Ireland will double between 2015 and 2040—there are 42,000 new cases each year. As we prepare for this reality, Cancer Connect will continue to build capacity to meet these needs.

2024 marked a pivotal moment for Cancer Connect in several ways. We celebrated the opening of our new office which was a testament to the growth and importance of our service within the nonprofit sector. It was significant to have An Tánaiste officiating the launch of a new premises that represents the necessity of Cancer Connect. I am so pleased that the Government began the process of partially funding Cancer Connect, we are confident that this funding will be recurring and will increase in line with need as the years progress.

In this year, Cancer Connect secured a Charity Partnership with Boston Scientific Cork. The reality of this Partnership went far beyond their generous financial contribution. This large Corporate, just like our Community, and just like the hospital staff we deal with daily, looked at what they can do to make each cancer journey more bearable and facilitated this with individual packs for our passengers.

Becoming an Associate Member of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) Alliance was a milestone for the Company in 2024. The Alliance is a forum for community-based cancer support organisations, allowing us to contribute to the National Cancer Strategy and gain recognition for best practice and quality service provision.

I look forward to continued support, growth, success and most importantly making a positive impact on each person in Cork on a cancer journey in 2025. Thank you to our incredible team, our supporters, and everyone who has helped shape Cancer Connect into the powerful service it is today. Together, we're making a real difference in our community—one journey at a time.

Helen O'Driscoll



“Cancer Connect continued to meet the increased need for cancer transport in such a smooth, positive and holistic manner while demand grew exponentially.”

VALUES, AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Company Objective

The main object for which the Company is established is to provide for the relief of sickness and distress of cancer patients in the Cork and surrounding areas through the provision of a transport service to assist patients attending treatment and their families.

Mission Statement

To offer a volunteer-based transport solution to the community which will enhance access to cancer treatments.

Strategic Objectives

- ◆ To provide safe, reliable, confidential, and free transport to Cork Hospitals for people requiring various cancer treatments
- ◆ To support the volunteers providing the service
- ◆ To coordinate appointments with Hospitals and help ease the logistics of travel for all concerned.

Values

We are committed to acting in a way that is consistent with our ethos and values of:

- ◆ Equality
- ◆ Social Inclusion
- ◆ Community based approach
- ◆ Quality
- ◆ Integration
- ◆ Environmental Sustainability
- ◆ Staff Recognition
- ◆ Volunteer Support
- ◆ Kindness
- ◆ Confidentiality

"To all connected to Cancer Connect, I should be in contact with you before this, to say thank you, and drivers and all connected for transport to hospital."





Claire Horgan (Corcoran) supported by the Castletown Ladies Club hosted a coffee morning in aid of Cancer Connect in February in the Castletown Kenneigh Hall and a sum of €5,691.05 was raised. At the presentation of funds were: Tess Chambers, Claire Horgan, Helen O'Driscoll, Rose Cronin, Anne-Marie Cronin, Siobhan O'Sullivan, Ann O'Callaghan, Betty O'Sullivan, Nora O'Driscoll, Kathleen Crowley, Finbarr Corcoran, Sheila Foley, Breda Crowley and Ann Lordan. Missing from photo is Nuala Lordan, who is recently deceased.

"Dear Sir or Madam, I am a man who used the Cancer Connect transport service from Kanturk to the Bons Secours hospital in Cork. I must say the service was excellent."

"Thanks for the cars that took me to Cork. In the future I will be asking you again."

THE WORK OF THE ORGANISATION

Voluntary Board - Governance

Cancer Connect is governed by a Voluntary Board of Directors. This Board has responsibility to oversee the work of the Organisation. The Members direct operations and ensure all work is done safely and correctly. They put controls in place, and review operational and financial activity on a regular basis. The Board is ultimately accountable for the legal, regulatory, and financial conditions of the company and the realisation of a long term vision.

Staff - Management

The Staff team are responsible for co-ordinating the work of the organisation. Maintaining a driving panel involves regular recruitment of and engagement with each volunteer, and then rostering drivers on a monthly (or often more frequently) basis.

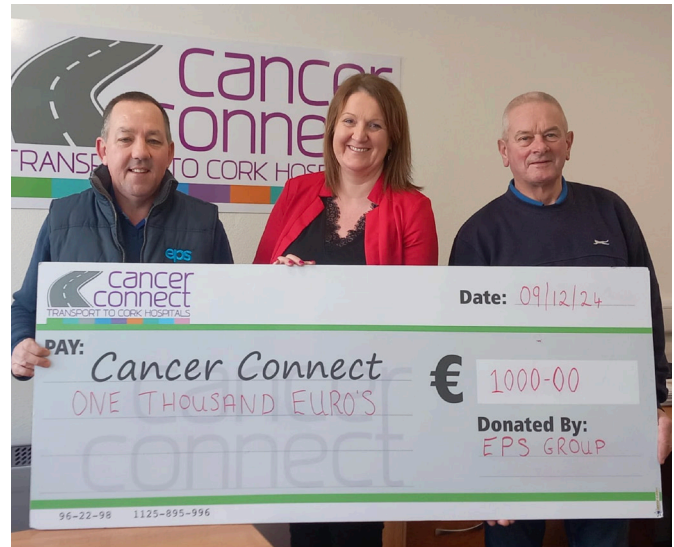
The Staff dedicate much time to Passenger support, ensuring flexibility and meeting individual needs while arranging transport to and from appointments. The Staff liaise with Hospitals, manage administration, promote the service, engaging with fundraising events, apply for grants and ultimately report to the Board of Directors.

Voluntary Drivers & Fundraisers - Operations

Volunteer Drivers are tasked with collecting passengers from home or scheduled pick-up point. Each Driver brings their Passenger to the door of the hospital, waits in Cork, and brings them home once the appointment is completed. While the role is solely driving, Volunteers offer much more in terms of comfort and support. Income is derived from fundraisers who organise a range of events across the county. This onerous job can range from organising a head shave to developing and selling a calendar, generating revenue for the service.



Darragh, John, Jamie & David Castletownbere



Donation from the EPS Group

THE LIFELINE ON WHEELS: Cancer Connect's transport Service

Cancer Connect isn't just about transportation—it's about connection, compassion, and community. As a volunteer driver based in Youghal, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand how this service transforms lives, often in ways far beyond the miles we cover.

Our 8-seater departs Youghal every morning at 11:30, bound for Cork City's hospitals. For those undergoing radiation therapy—a treatment that can require daily attendance over the course of a month—this service provides so much more than a way to get to their appointments. It offers a cocoon of support, a shared space where those facing similar challenges find comfort in each other's company.

One morning last year, I remember our 8-seater was nearly full, carrying five passengers. That day, a quiet man joined us for the first time, nervous and unsure about what lay ahead; he remained quiet on the journey, not talking and not joining the usual banter and camaraderie. It just happened that he was the first passenger for me to collect on the return journey, and we had some time to spare waiting for other passengers. We were having a companionable silence, listening to the radio, when he opened up. He shared that seeing others speak so openly about their cancer journeys gave him the courage to accept his own diagnosis. He described Cancer Connect as more than a transport—it was, in his words, a "cocoon of like people, where we can be honest with each other."



This service isn't limited to bus stops. We call to houses if someone cannot reach the stop and pick up others in towns along the way. Cancer Connect ensures no one is left stranded, isolated, or overwhelmed at a time when they need support the most. As drivers, we see the journey patients go through—starting with hope and strength and often moving toward exhaustion as weeks progress. For some, the shared space of the bus becomes a vital part of their coping. For many, it's not just a ride but a lifeline. Cancer Connect isn't just a free transport service. It's a mobile support group, a sanctuary, and often, a reminder to those on board that they're not facing this alone.

Oliver Leamy
Radiotherapy Driver East Cork

BOSTON SCIENTIFIC CORK, Charity Partner 2024

In January 2024, we proudly launched our Charity Partnership with the fantastic team at Boston Scientific Cork. While we initially envisioned this collaboration as primarily providing financial support and promoting our services to their extensive staff of over 1,600, we quickly realised there was so much more to gain. Boston Scientific Cork's genuine commitment to our cause was evident as they engaged deeply with our mission and became well-acquainted with our transport services.

Our collaboration with Boston Scientific Cork has been truly transformative. Partnering with such a highly respected corporate organisation significantly elevated our profile and strengthened Cancer Connect's presence on a national level. Their involvement and insight into our mission enabled their support to resonate deeply with all those who use our services. We are both thankful for and proud of our partnership with Boston Scientific Cork.

During the year, the Cancer Connect team was warmly welcomed on-site for various raffles and events. Our special thanks to Sharon Barrett, Karl Flavin, Dave Leonard, Jennifer Creber, Craig Cooper, Kathleen Carroll and Sarah Sheehan for their compassion, cordiality, diligence and advocacy throughout our Partnership and beyond.

In November, the 'Everyone Makes an Impact' (EMAI) team dedicated a week to passenger support. Every staff member on site volunteered their time to assemble bags filled with both practical and comforting items. Each pack included a handwritten note from BSC staff addressed to the passenger, adding a personal touch. To ensure that all passengers could access these packs, we collaborated with Cork County Library Service and the wonderful Catriona O'Driscoll from 'Healthy Ireland at Your Library'. Catriona distributed the packs across every library in Cork and to our Drivers, who gifted them to each passenger. BSC, Cork County Council, and our team are all incredibly proud to offer something so personal and kind, making a meaningful difference in the journeys of those facing cancer.



The partnership concluded with a presentation of the total donation to the service—an impressive €50,000. This contribution was metamorphic, and we are confident that BSC recognises the positive impact these funds will facilitate.



As the year went on, the BSC team looked for ways to support individual passengers on their cancer journeys. They provided beautiful, soft blankets and care packs, which we made available to those using the Radiotherapy service. Just imagine the comfort that a gentle blanket and a thoughtful gift can bring to someone facing up to 35 days of travel to and from CUH or Bons Secours.



We were delighted to co-fund a new vehicle for East Cork, made possible through grant support from the Emer Casey Foundation and a generous donation from BSC. In December 2024, a Skoda Superb was acquired and positioned in Youghal, symbolising a lasting legacy for our partnership and a daily benefit to the communities of Youghal, Castlemartyr, Killeagh, and Middleton. The vehicle plays a vital role in transporting passengers to chemotherapy and related appointments across Cork Hospitals. The launch of the vehicle was a proud moment for all three organisations, marking a significant and positive local impact.



CANCER CONNECT 2024: A Year in Review

2024 was characterised by sustained growth across all aspects of the service. There was an increase in the number of passengers utilising the service, as well as those volunteering as drivers for Cancer Connect. Donations from individuals rose significantly, and the stakeholder network (including hospital staff and partners) expanded substantially. This year stands out as another milestone of progress, reflecting the national rise in cancer diagnoses. The growth can also be attributed to enhanced marketing efforts and growing trust in the service.

PASSENGER JOURNEYS

PASSENGER JOURNEY ANALYSIS:

Initial Growth 2012-2013:

There was substantial growth in passenger journeys, with a 97% increase in 2012 and a 69% increase in 2013.

Decline 2014-2015: A significant decline occurred, with percentage changes of -6% in 2014 and -27% in 2015.

Recovery and Fluctuation 2016-2019: The period shows recovery and fluctuation, with a notable increase in 2016 (21%) followed by ups and downs, including a decrease (-11%) in 2019.

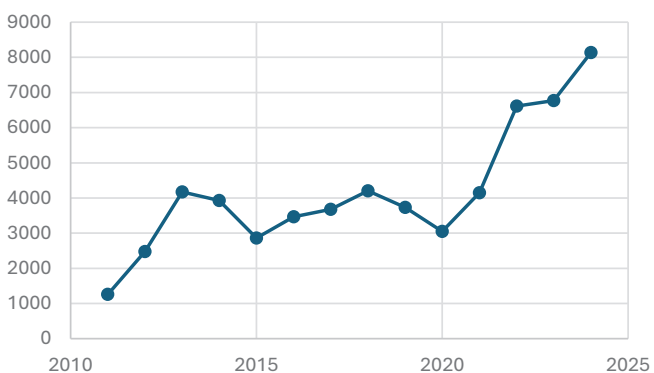
Pandemic Impact 2020-2021: The COVID-19 pandemic likely caused a decrease (-18%) in 2020, followed by a recovery (36%) in 2021.

Post-Pandemic Growth 2022-2024: There was substantial growth in 2022 (59%), with growth continuing in 2023 (2.5%) and 2024 (20%).

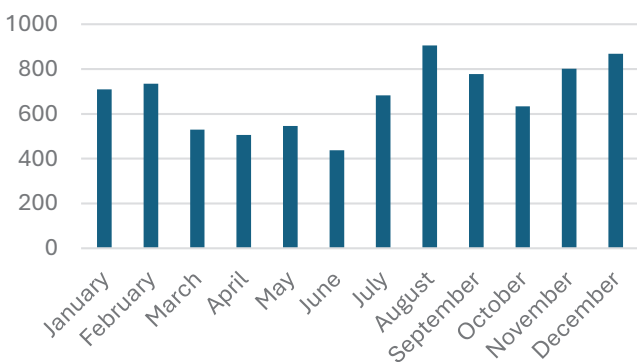
2024: July and August show the largest positive changes, indicating peak increases in passenger journeys. March and October experienced the most significant drop in passenger journeys. In 2024, two months, August and December, recorded the highest number of passenger journeys since the service began in 2011.

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Individual Passengers	193	273 (+41%)	315 (+15%)	355 (+16%)
Volunteer Drivers	233	339 (+45%)	386 (14%)	457 (+20%)
Passenger Journeys	4152	6614 (+59%)	6774 (+2.5%)	8134 (+20%)

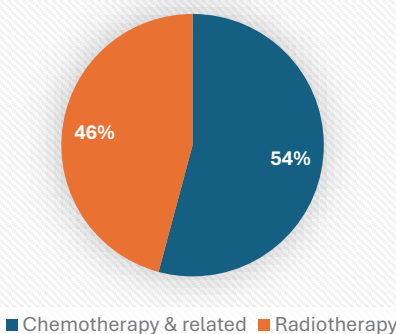
Passenger Journeys 2011-2024



Monthly Passenger Journeys



Passenger Journeys by Type



Chemotherapy and related journeys (4,406 in total) represented 54% of cancer transport in 2024.

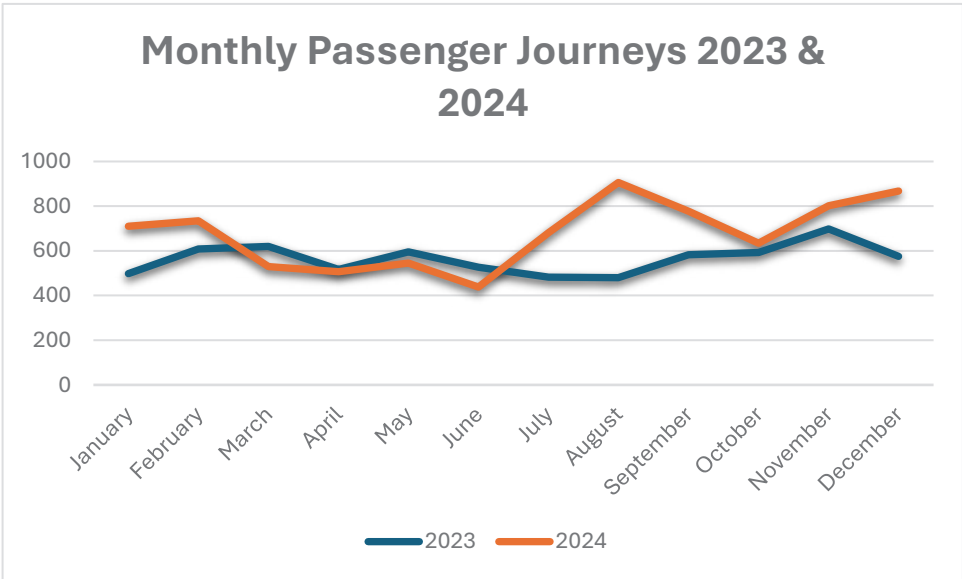
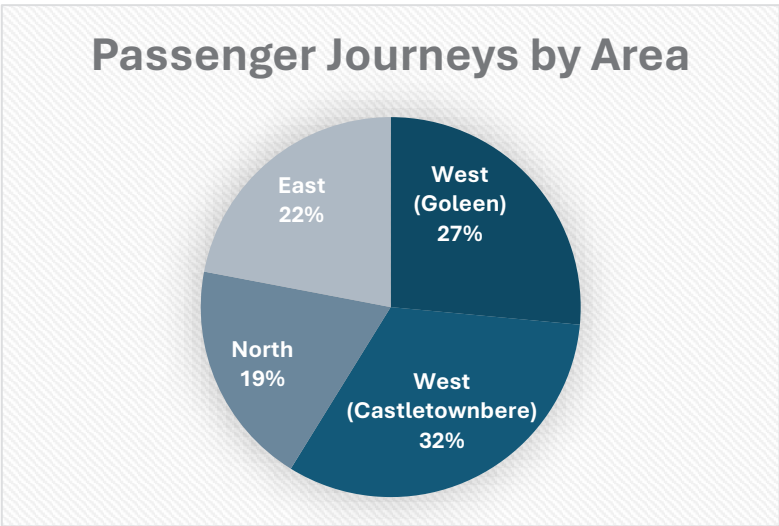
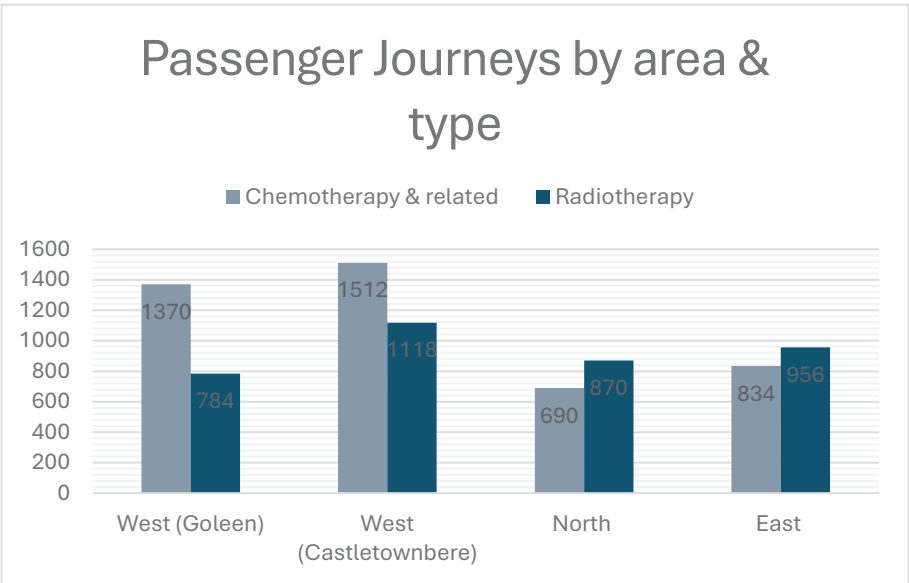
These 'related' appointments included procedures, scans, blood test, consultations, and many more. These journeys were one to one and based around the passengers' own schedules. Volunteer Drivers drove their own cars or one of Cancer Connect owned 5 cars for this transport.

The remaining 46% (3,728) of passenger journeys in 2024 were to radiotherapy departments in CUH and Bon Secours. This transport took place via the 4 radiotherapy routes departing from Goleen, Castletownbere, Rockchapel and Youghal. Each passenger travelled in an 8 seater and attended treatment at hospital/Cancer Connect agreed times.

Chemotherapy & related appointment transport was in higher demand in West Cork (Goleen and Castletownbere) than in North and East Cork.

Over 65% of chemotherapy transport took place in West Cork. Radiotherapy passenger journeys were apportioned as follows West (Castletownbere) 30%, East (26%), North (23%), West (Goleen) 21%.

Radiotherapy, chemotherapy & related appointments – transport by area Compared to 2023:
Castletownbere: 32% (-3%)
Goleen: 27% (-9%)
East: 22% (+4%)
North: 19% (+8%)



A 20% rise in Passenger journeys in 2024 from the previous year was substantial, and particularly evident in August. In that month, 906 passenger journeys were recorded, providing an average number of trips per weekday of 41. In August, two hundred and thirty-five volunteers gave at least one day of driving, with many driving one day per week to meet demand.

Vehicles

In 2024, exactly 50% of passenger journeys were recorded using a Cancer Connect owned vehicle. Each Radiotherapy route has an 8 seater, with a dedicated local panel of volunteers. Cars are available for chemotherapy & related appointments and placed across the County.

With great support from the Emer Casey Foundation and Boston Scientific Cork, a car was purchased for Youghal for the first time in 2024. This marked a crucial turning point for transport in East Cork, and brought with it a more structured approach to this aspect of the service. The new car in Youghal has been a fantastic asset. Since being in service, it has been on the road for nearly three-quarters of the time. This promising beginning highlights the demand for a dedicated Cancer Connect vehicle for one-on-one support in East Cork.



A Bantry based car was upgraded in December 2025, with support from Government financing. New vehicles increase the comfort of the passenger, and the driving experience of the volunteer. There is also a great reduction in maintenance costs with a new purchase.

Through West Cork Development Partnership, Cancer Connect were allocated a staff member on the Tús Scheme. The fleet of 9 has benefitted from Tús Worker Dave Hegarty's supervision and the maintenance and management of same is in good condition.



Office Opening

Cancer Connect was proud to announce the official opening of the new office in Bantry, Co. Cork, by An Tánaiste, Micheál Martin T.D in 2024. The opening, held on Saturday, October 26th, marked a significant milestone in Cancer Connect's mission to support cancer patients across County Cork. There were 370 guests in attendance, and speakers included An Tánaiste, Mayor of County Cork Joe Carroll, Chairperson Neilie O'Leary, Manager Helen O'Driscoll, Local Link Cork Board Member Michael Collins TD, Driver Kathleen McCarthy. Vince Power spoke of his experience of using the service; his presence was compelling. Speaking at the opening, Tánaiste Micheál Martin said:

"I'm delighted to be in Bantry today to officially open Cancer Connects' new office. This organisation provides an invaluable service to the cancer patients in Cork county. I want to thank the Cancer Connect staff and volunteers for the vital work they do, making thousands of journeys with patients each year. This new office will further help Cancer Connects carry out their hugely important role in the community."

Finances

Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly granted €50,000 to Cancer Connect in 2024. This funding was apportioned as follows: €25,000 From HSE Section 39 for capital expense and €25,000 from National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) for operational costs. This funding marked a vital step toward long-term sustainability and the development of a joint funding model between the State and the community.

The Community continued to support the ongoing costs of the organisation by holding events such as threshings, Bingos, swimming, cycling, mountain climbing .. an endless list of kindness, energy and support. Three hundred and ninety one donations were made by the community across county cork in 2024. Our progress relies heavily on the unwavering support of our

community. They recognise the importance of our work and come together each year to ensure we have the resources needed. Every contribution not only helps sustain our efforts but also includes promotion of our services, fostering trust and awareness. Ultimately, each donation directly impacts someone's journey, making a meaningful difference in their life.

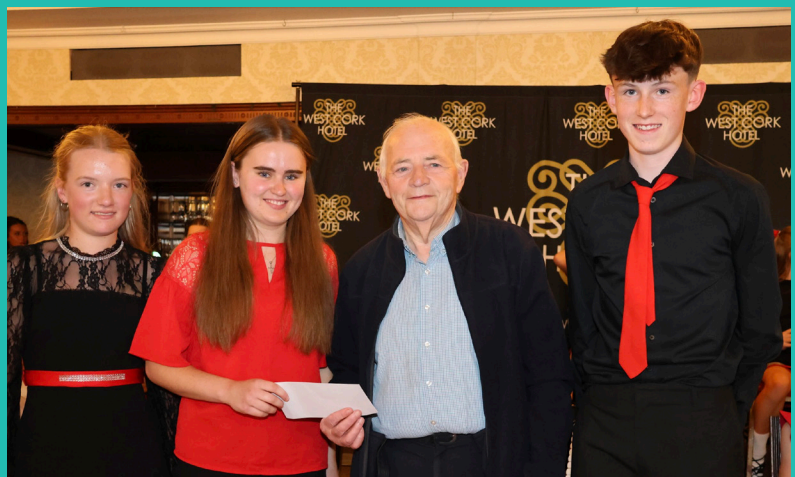
The HSE granted €20,000 through Section 39 funding to support a staff member, €3,000 was granted through the HSE to support the office move, and The Hospital Saturday Fund granted Cancer Connect €3,000. Cancer Connect was nominated by Nicola Barry, Branch Manager of AXA Cork City for A Community Award. Not only did the service win the Community Award but also received a cheque for €10,000. A short video was made by AXA highlighting the work of the volunteers which has been an invaluable tool in telling our story. The Emer Casey Foundation co funded the purchase of a new car in East Cork with a donation of €10,000.

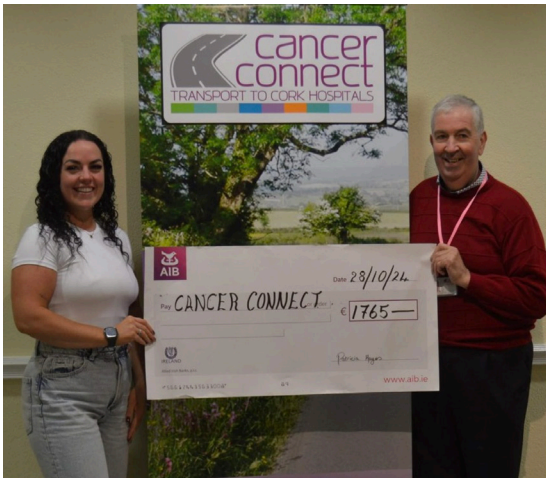


Board & Staff

The voluntary Board of Directors met for 4 Board meetings in 2024. They are an exceptional group of 11 individuals who have invested significant time and expertise in managing and guiding the company's operations. Additional focus was given to Health & Safety this year, and a Safety Statement was developed with the kind support of Ayrton Group.

The core staff team of Helen O'Driscoll, Sinead Keohane and Karen O'Connor were joined by Vehicle Supervisor Dave Hegarty (Tús, West Cork Development Partnership), Driver Tommy Coppinger (Tús, SECAD Partnership), Receptionist Sandra Harrington (CE, West Cork Training and Development) and Volunteer Jane de la Cour. Every team member demonstrated outstanding performance and went above and beyond their responsibilities. The company's remarkable achievements this year are a direct result of everyone's dedication, hard work, loyalty, and expertise dedicated to Cancer Connect. The strong rapport between the passengers and the staff played a crucial role in our success. Clearly, having the right person in the right role is essential for delivering quality results.





THE CORKMAN | Thursday, October 24, 2024

Duhallow Vintage Club make vital donation to Cancer Connect charity

DUHALLOW Vintage Club members gathered in Quinlan's Bar in Meelin on last Friday evening to present a cheque for €3,100, the proceeds of their vintage car and tractor run, which was held recently, in aid of the Cork County Cancer Connect charity.

Vintage Club President John Noel Cronin was on hand to present the cheque to Newmarket's Dan Murphy, who is one of the co-ordinators for the transport of cancer sufferers to any of the Cork hospitals and occasionally to Limerick.

Accepting the cheque, Dan Murphy paid tribute to the Duhallow members, saying the money would be well spent, ferrying people free of charge to hospital appointments for treatment, or to meetings with consultants and oncologists. "The service is completely voluntary, and we operate throughout Cork County on a completely voluntary basis. We presently have nine vehicles on the road, with volunteer drivers. And we operate the free service from Bantry, right throughout the county," said Dan.

Presenting the cheque John Noel Cronin said this current cheque brought the total amount donated by the Freemount based Duhallow Vintage Club to, in excess, of €20,000, to worthy causes in recent years. He thanked the members of the club for turning out repeatedly to support their work to ease the lot of others in the community.

He thanked everybody who supported the latest fund-raising drive in Meelin, saying they were extremely grateful to Duhallow Vintage Club members, and to local man Tim Collins and his family, and all the local volunteers who helped on one of the worst days of the years weatherwise, and who came out to support the work of Cancer Connect.

Shine On BOOK LAUNCH

A collection of writings and paintings, memories and thoughts, to mark the impact the Covid 19 Pandemic had on us.

Mall Arts Centre, Youghal

12th October 2024

12.00 - 2.30pm

Tea & Coffee
Refreshments
Prize Raffle
All Welcome

All proceeds in aid of Cancer Support

Kindly supported by

Meelin CAR & TRACTOR RALLY

in aid of

SUNDAY 29TH September

10pm TO 12:30

REGISTRATIONS & DONATIONS

Meelin Community Centre

Please support this worthy cause



CORK CANCER CONNECT CLG

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	2024 €	€	2023 €	€
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6		167,427		148,226
Current assets					
Debtors	7	43,301		9,658	
Cash at bank and in hand		348,674		188,228	
		391,975		197,886	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	(6,726)		(5,611)	
Net current assets			385,249		192,275
Net assets			552,676		340,501
Reserves					
Income and expenditure account	10		552,676		340,501
Total members' funds			552,676		340,501

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Statement Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 11 July 2025 and are signed on its behalf by:


Neillie O'Leary
Director


David O'Brien
Director

"In appreciation and grateful thanks for looking after my 2 recent trips to CUH. Thank you very much again."

"Just a little token of appreciation for daily lifts to Cork last December. Thanks to all your drivers who give of their time freely. It is a marvellous service and so efficient. Thank you so very, very much."

"I can't thank you enough for the wonderful service of Cancer Connect. It took so much pressure off me during a difficult time, and it was a pleasure to meet so many kind and interesting people along the way. Both drivers and service users."

CORK CANCER CONNECT CLG

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 €	2024 €	2023 €	2023 €
Income				
Donations and fundraising		348,460		302,197
HSE grants		73,000		77,225
HSF grants		3,000		13,500
Other Grants		60,000		-
		<u>484,460</u>		<u>392,922</u>
Administrative expenses				
Wages and salaries	85,642		49,773	
Social security costs	9,292		5,146	
Reimbursement of volunteer drivers' expenses	43,870		39,821	
Staff pension costs defined contribution	4,389		-	
Other staff costs	2,888		300	
Room Hire	5,907		3,593	
Recharged costs from Bantry Rural Transport	-		17,000	
Rent	4,500		-	
Insurance	15,356		13,997	
Power, light and heat	1,328		-	
Repairs and maintenance	6,563		7,737	
Computer running costs	3,336		1,877	
Bus Hire	-		775	
Motor running expenses	21,454		6,430	
Fuel and oil	21,398		11,129	
Travelling expenses	4,246		2,593	
Legal and professional fees	20		20	
Consultancy fees	250		-	
Audit fees	3,025		3,025	
Bank charges	955		634	
Print, post and stationery	10,096		10,308	
Advertising	4,516		780	
Telecommunications	2,000		395	
Sundry expenses	970		300	
Depreciation	25,284		53,563	
Profit or loss on sale of tangible assets (non exceptional)	(5,000)		(8,500)	
		<u>(272,285)</u>		<u>(220,696)</u>
Operating surplus		<u>212,175</u>		<u>172,226</u>

"To all the lovely people at Cancer Connect, thank you so very much for making my journey so much easier."

"Thanks to all those at Cancer Connect. The admin staff and all the gentlemen drivers who got me safely to the Glandore Centre and back home again. I really couldn't have done it without your help."



Cancer Connect is a free and flexible transport service to Cork Hospitals. The service is driven by a team of Voluntary Drivers. Cancer Connect Transport is offered throughout Cork County. As this is a voluntary service, a minimum notice of 1 week is requested when booking.

RADIOTHERAPY APPOINTMENTS

The radiotherapy service leaves each weekday from Rockchapel, Goleen, Youghal and Castletownbere, based on demand, and travels to CUH and Bon Secours Radiotherapy Departments. See timetable on reverse side.

CANCER RELATED APPOINTMENTS

Passengers requiring Chemotherapy, or attending related appointments such as Consultant visits, scans, blood tests, wig clinics etc. are taken to Cork by car. These trips are organised on a 'one to one' basis. Appointment times vary. Passengers may require a family member to travel too, which is facilitated and encouraged.

For Bookings/Enquiries 021 2038525

Email **info@cancerconnect.ie**

www.cancerconnect.ie

Block 2, Warner Centre, Barrack St., Bantry, Co. Cork P75 EV9
CHY Number: 22770

Want to drive, donate or require further details?

Helen 085 2660918 | Sinéad 086 0587842 | Karen 087 1224404