

Invitation to Tender

Can-Survive UK Evaluation

1. About Can-Survive UK

Since 2015, Can-Survive UK (CSUK) has been challenging the inequalities experienced by African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse communities around cancer diagnosis, treatment, care and support.

Founded by our CEO, CSUK has grown from a grassroots community group into an award-winning charity, based at the Kath Locke Centre in central Manchester and with support services in Trafford and Salford, supporting primarily however not exclusively African and Caribbean community members (aged 18+) living with or affected by cancer, their families and carers.

The majority of our service users are older, unemployed, on low incomes and live in economically disadvantaged areas of Greater Manchester. They also have poorer experiences of cancer support and care compared to their White British counterparts. These include delays in diagnosis and referrals, and access to culturally appropriate support.

CSUK exist to:

- **enable** people affected by cancer to participate in wellbeing activities/therapies; encouraging people to socialise, increase confidence and reduce isolation
- **empower** people to take more control and better manage cancer and their health to enhance their wellbeing, as well as their resilience
- **educate** by delivering cancer awareness sessions for communities/groups across Greater Manchester
- **provide** a platform upon which **community members' voices** and **experiences** are **heard** and **included**
- **influence** policy and practices of statutory and other cancer related services to improve the experiences for the people we work with

CSUK has developed an effective, recognised model of good practice in delivering culturally appropriate support, which responds to inequalities in cancer care and outcomes. This is based on an inclusive, service-user led approach of integrated personalised care.

2. Can-Survive UK's 3GM Boroughs Project Outcomes

CSUK has been supported by Macmillan Support to develop and deliver the 3 Greater Manchester (GM) Boroughs Project over a three-year period (2025-2028).

The project aims are to:

- 1) Support the development of 3 bespoke CSUK support hub in 3 GM boroughs, tailored to local context and needs.
- 2) Influence the development of inclusive, effective GM cancer strategies and support services
- 3) Support access to integrated personalised care through the GM Live Well with Cancer programme

The wider aim is to ensure that people from African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse communities have:

- more timely and appropriate access to cancer support
- support and opportunities to live well with cancer.

- access to more culturally competent Statutory and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) cancer provision.

The intervention across the 3 GM hubs will also:

- build organisational capacity to further develop and deliver against identified needs.
- provide strategic leadership to influence decision makers/service providers in tackling health inequalities experienced by people from African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse communities, regionally and nationally.

3. Evaluation scope and specification

We are commissioning an independent evaluator to undertake an evaluation of Can-Survive UK's 3GM Boroughs Project (February 2025 – January 2028). The external evaluator will work with CSUK to develop a set of key Evaluation Questions, gather and analyse data that answers these and produce report. The evaluation will help CSUK to investigate the extent to which it is delivering its stated outcomes through the project development and delivery in the three localities and the wider impact of the organisational roles supported by this initiative.

Evaluation aims

The aims of the evaluation are to help Can-Survive UK to:

- Identify the impact of our support on service users' emotional, physical and overall well-being
- Assess the development and delivery of the Cancer Support Hub in each borough
- Assess the impact of key roles in achieving the desired outcomes for this project and for CSUK as an organisation
- Understand the impact of CSUK on mainstream cancer, health and VCSE organisations in influencing the development of effective and inclusive GM cancer strategies and support services
- Identify and implement changes to CSUK practice throughout the life of the evaluation in response to emerging findings
- Improve our projects and services based on what we learn from the evaluation
- Demonstrate the impact of CSUK to our partners, potential commissioners and funders
- Share evidence of CSUK impact with other agencies and policy-makers to better support African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse communities affected by cancer

Evaluation methods

During project start up, the evaluator will:

- Establish working relationships with CSUK team, Macmillan and other key stakeholders
- In collaboration with CSUK's senior leaders, lead a process to determine the key Evaluation Questions for the project and in prioritising these questions
- In collaboration with CSUK, identify qualitative and quantitative indicators, based on CSUK Theory of Change
- Produce and agree an Evaluation Plan which sets out:
 - what quantitative and qualitative data will be collected to answer the key Evaluation Questions
 - relevant outputs and outcomes and how they will be measured
 - which evaluation tools will be used to collect data
 - who will collect this data and when

This document will offer an overview of how data will be analysed and when it will be reported on/findings shared

- Make changes to the key Evaluation Questions and Evaluation Plan in response to CSUK feedback and finalise these
- Work with CSUK to identify what data needs to be collected to create a robust baseline (where needed) and design mechanisms to gather this data
- Stress-test monitoring/evaluation tools and quality check first batch of data
- Maintain a strong focus on the voices of our service users and using existing CSUK contributions and insight

During the life of the project, the Evaluator will:

- Conduct interviews and small-group sessions with CSUK service users, CSUK workers and trustees, and other stakeholders, including partner organisations. It is anticipated most of the fieldwork will be in person with service users.
- Support CSUK staff data collection and reporting – providing ad-hoc technical support
- Support quarterly reflective practice sessions with the project team and provide action notes
- Run annual surveys and feed into funder reporting as appropriate

At the end of 12 months (Interim Report) and 24 months (Final Report), the Evaluator will:

- Analyse and synthesise all data (or a sample of it) and create high level findings
- Write and present End of Year (focussed on the extent the project is delivering its stated outcomes) reports, including practical recommendations for CSUK to better meet its aims, recording lessons learnt and changes made
- Review data collection processes and make changes as required

3 months prior to the end of the project (February 2028), the Evaluator will:

- Analyse and synthesise all data and develop findings
- Write and present End-of-project (focussed on 'impact') report including lessons learnt, practical recommendations for CSUK to better meet its aims, identifying barriers and opportunities for further development and future work for CSUK, partners and funders

Resources for the evaluation

- Organisational Theory of Change (produced in 2025)
- Project activity data
- Incentives to support the involvement of service users within the evaluation (in addition to the specified evaluation budget)
- Support from CSUK Monitoring and Evaluation Worker and Strategic Lead
- Budget for producing impactful evaluation materials and social media resource ((in addition to the specified evaluation budget)

Evaluator skills, experience and background

- A proven track record in project evaluation and impact assessment including excellent writing skills
- Experience of evaluating community projects
- Excellent data gathering, collation and analysis skills
- Excellent facilitation, communication and inter-personal skills
- Experience of working with people from African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse community backgrounds
- Experience of enabling service users to being meaningfully engaged in evaluations
- Flexibility, adaptability and ability to work to deadlines
- Commitment to promoting equity and social inclusion

Special considerations

The following should be taken into consideration when preparing the tender response:

- The evaluation should balance both qualitative and quantitative data
- The project works with and for people affected by racial and health inequalities. It is therefore important that the evaluation process is inclusive and empowering, and ensures that voices of people affected by cancer are strong within it
- As the project is in development with the likelihood of being scaled up, it is imperative that the project team are supported to reflect upon delivery, learning and potential changes to maximise CSUK effectiveness
- All outputs arising from this contract will be the intellectual property of CSUK

DBS check

As this work will involve contact with service users, the successful applicant will need an up-to-date DBS check

Timetable

March 2026: contract signed and project starts

February 2028: evaluation project ends and final outputs completed

Outputs

- Clear evaluation framework including goals, evaluation questions and data collection methods utilised, including 1:1 and group feedback from service users and other stakeholders.
- Completed qualitative and quantitative analysis of the project's impact
- Produced accessible Interim and Impact Reports (Year 1 and Year 2) with key findings, recommendations and executive summaries.

Reporting arrangements

- The evaluator will report to, and meet regularly with, the CSUK Strategic Lead to ensure smooth delivery of the evaluation

Budget

- £41,650 (inclusive of VAT where charged)

4. Proposal

The proposal should be a word document, font size 12, and maximum 8 pages (A4 double sided) including CV and examples

The following should be covered:

- A short summary statement of your understanding of the services required
- A short summary of your approach to this evaluation
- A description of how data will be collected, analysed and how the evaluation process will be quality assured
- Produce an outline timetable for completing the required work including milestone dates, proposed timings for reflective sessions and producing reports
- Describe your evaluation knowledge, skills and experience, qualifications and previous work with people from African, Caribbean and ethnically diverse community members affected by health and racial inequalities
- Outline who will deliver the evaluation – if a team of people, clarify each person's role

- Provide two relevant examples from the last three years of you/r team undertaking similar projects (no more than a page per example)
- A short CV (no more than two pages) for the individual leading the commission, including relevant experience on projects of this kind; maximum half-page pen-profile of other team members.
- Fee proposal. Please make sure this is broken down so that it is clear what requested services cost including your daily rate.
- The fee includes all travel and subsistence costs for the evaluator/s
- All other costs related to delivering this commission including room hire, service users' travel and expenses, will be met by CSUK.

Bidding timetable

- Request for proposals issued on: 19 January 2026
- Quote period ends at 9am on 9 February 2026
- We will notify providers of the outcome of the tendering process: 16 February 2026
- We will invite selected providers for a panel interview in Manchester: 20 February 2026
- We will notify interviewed applicants of the final decision: 25 February 2026
- Commission initiated: 2 March 2026

Please return your quote via email by the tender period deadline of 9am on Monday 9th February 2026 to kirit@can-survive.org.uk

Proposals will be considered by a CSUK project panel, and each tender will be judged on merit by the panel with consideration given to cost and quality at a weighting of 20% and 80% respectively