



Walsall Council



**MAKING
CONNECTIONS**
WALSALL

Making Connections Walsall

Face to face befriending / buddying

Grant Specification

Instructions & Guidance

SECTION 1 – MCW (Face to face befriending / buddying) grant SPECIFICATION

Introduction

Making Connections Walsall (MCW) is a friendly service for residents of Walsall addressing loneliness and social isolation. It offers people in Walsall an opportunity to explore their social needs and interests. It also provides support to people to build their social networks, improve their emotional health and wellbeing and engage in community activities.

MCW provides the health community and social care professionals with a single route of referral into appropriate local community-based support networks. This utilises a “social prescribing” approach to help engage people (particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups).

Background

The importance of strong social networks, access to friends, family and an active social life should not be underestimated. Those who enjoy a happy social life, achieve better health outcomes than those who do not.

“The most terrible poverty is loneliness, and the feeling of being unloved.” Mother Teresa (1910 – 1997)

“People can be lonely while in the middle of a crowd. Conversely, one can be alone and not feel lonely” (Beaumont, J. 2013).

The link between social isolation and wellbeing cannot be underestimated.

Loneliness and social isolation:

- Is more harmful to health than smoking 15 cigarettes per day and alcohol consumption
- Is higher in people with higher blood pressure readings
- Increases the risk of depression
- Increases the risk of dementia in older people
- Leads to a greater reliance on health and social care services; including GP services and emergency and care services.

How does Making Connections Walsall work?

Making Connections Walsall is delivered through a hub and spoke locality model connected through a consortium of 4 hubs. Referrals are processed by West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) and allocated to one of four hubs via the NHS Data Collection and Recording System (DCRS). The Hubs will arrange an appointment with service users (which can be carried out at their home) to discuss their social needs and support them to access appropriate activities. Buddying / befriending may be one of these activities.

We are interested in your project

Walsall Council is seeking to fund a range of innovative befriending and buddying projects / activities to directly benefit Walsall's older population. The Council would like to receive proposals for enhancing already existing and established face to face befriending / buddying projects. Walsall Council is particularly interested in programmes which help older people to leave their homes. Funding must add value to what is currently provided and also help attract new people to community groups.

Grant available

The minimum grant available is £2000 (over the life of the project) and the maximum grant available is £8000 (over the life of the project). This grant will not fund one-off events unless it can be sufficiently demonstrated that the event will have a longer-term or wider community benefit.

Applicants must demonstrate in their proposal how their project/ activity will use face to face befriending / buddying to address loneliness and isolation whilst helping older people to reconnected into local communities.

Eligibility – Who can apply?

- Walsall based; Charities, Community groups and Voluntary organisations

The grant cannot be awarded to:

- Profit-making organisations
- Individuals
- Statutory organisations (e.g. the NHS or the police)
- Local government (e.g. district or borough councils)
- Large voluntary sector/ national organisations

What can this grant pay for?

- Community activities
- Equipment
- Hiring a venue or equipment
- Training fees (e.g. for volunteers) – rationalisation required
- Volunteer out of pocket expenses
- Service delivery

The grant cannot pay for?

- Promoting political beliefs or religious views
- Any costs associated with buying land or buildings
- Projects outside of Walsall
- Retrospective costs of projects that have already taken place

SECTION 2 – MCW Grant INSTRUCTION & GUIDANCE

Introduction

Walsall Council wishes to thank you for your interest in the Making Connections Walsall (Face to face befriending / buddying) project. This grant application process has been prepared by the Council, and invites potential providers to submit their proposals by way of the MCW (Face to face befriending / buddying) Grant Application Form (please see below).

Whilst the Council makes no general representation or warranty, expressed or implied, in relation to the accuracy or completeness of any of the information contained in the application document, it is provided in the belief that it is accurate to the best of the Council's knowledge.

Application process

Applications are invited for the provision of the MCW (face to face befriending / buddying) service as specified in this document for a 22 month period commencing between 1st June 2019 with an anticipated end date of between 31st March 2021.

Applicants must complete all questions within the grant application form which can be accessed via the accompanying attachment.

The completed grant application must be returned electronically to mcw@walsall.gov.uk by no later than 5pm Friday 15th March 2019.

*The grant agreement will be made available if your application is successful.

Criteria for scoring the application

Your overall application will be scored as successful/ not successful.

Each application will be scored by an assessment panel using the following criteria. The Grant Application Form reflects this criteria. A score of 0 in any of the criteria will lead to your application being unsuccessful. There may be circumstances where the Council request further information to help make this decision.

| Criteria | | Yes | | No | | |
|---|--------|-----|--------|--------|--------|----|
| Does the proposal seek to address loneliness and isolation and physical inactivity and/ or increased weight? | | Yes | | No | | |
| <i>Only assess against the remaining criteria if the answer above is 'yes'</i> | Weight | Yes | Mostly | Partly | Barely | No |
| Does the proposal provide clear rationale on how it will address loneliness through Face to face befriending / buddying? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the application provide evidence of need for the proposed activity? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the proposal demonstrate value for money? | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the proposal have clear plans for measuring impact? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the proposal provide details of who will benefit from your project (consider demographics)? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the application demonstrate experience of delivering similar projects? (or support from an organisation that does) | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the proposal demonstrate how sustainability will be achieved? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Does the proposal meet the other priorities (at least 3) of MCW Face to face befriending / buddying/ (e.g. volunteering, reducing falls)? | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

Information is provided below that you will find helpful in developing your application;

- Age UK's [Promising Approaches to Reducing Loneliness and Isolation in Later Life](#) may be helpful in developing ideas. However, remember that projects need to address physical inactivity and/or increased weight and do not have to be focused on older people.
- Locality Profiles - Walsall's 20 wards are grouped into 4 geographical areas called localities. Locality profiles have been produced to provide insight into the differing demographic characteristics & challenges faced by each locality. The profiles will help to demonstrate need of your proposed activity.
<https://www.walsallintelligence.org.uk/home/profiles/locality-profiles/>

SECTION 3 – CONTACT DETAILS

| CONTACT DETAILS | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Period of Contract: | 22 Months |
| Commissioning Officer: | Angela Aitken Public Health |

| TIMETABLE | |
|--|---|
| Stage | Date(s)/time |
| Deadline for submission of grant application | No later than 5pm Friday 15 th March 2019. |
| Contract commencement | 1 st June 2019 |

This timetable is indicative only. The Council reserves the right to change it at its discretion.