



THE AZURE BEFRIENDING SERVICE



Lifting People, Challenging Stigma, Changing Lives

Lifting People!



Challenging Stigma

Changing Lives!



Our Befriending Support Service

The Azure Befriending Service will offer supportive relationships to people who would otherwise be socially isolated. The project will help provide effective emotional help for African & Caribbean elders and vulnerable individuals by offering a range of activities. These will be inclusive of online and face to face discussions to assist building self-esteem, assurance, confidence and friendship.

Our aim is to encourage people to re-engage with their communities with the help of a befriender.

With one to one support from your befriender, we help you to get out and about, and enjoying the company of other people. We will work with you to try and connect with something you love, or were once involved in. Our aim is to increase your confidence and boost your self-esteem and wellbeing.

The scheme works by matching each person with a compatible and caring volunteer befriender, who will provide you with support and companionship. Where possible, you will be assisted with accessing particular interest groups or additional sources of support. All the Volunteer Befrienders are assessed by the Befriending Coordinator, who will take care to match you with a Volunteer Befriender who take care to meet your needs. All Volunteer Befrienders undergo a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check and provide references. They will attend a volunteer induction and training specific to the role.

Helping to Reduce Social Isolation in Bedford

Our Services:

The Befriending service will provide emotional support for those who are lonely and isolated, which will include:

- Providing information on Health and Wellbeing services and how to access them.
- Telephone befriending companionship to build good rapport.
- Bereavement counselling
- Shopping or food parcel delivery
- Providing information about loans and door scams
- Keeping individuals updated on the government and local guidelines.
- Checking on individuals who may struggle with technology, and assist with set up to keep in touch with family and friends.

Who is Eligible?

Potential clients of the service needs to be over 18 years of age and live in the Borough of Bedford. The service will be provided to those who meet the eligibility criteria.

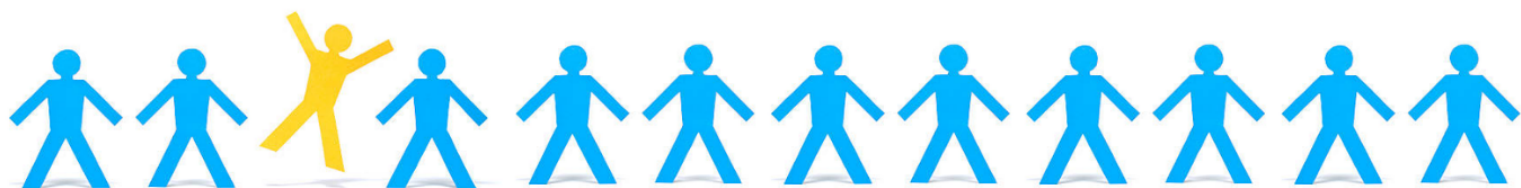
Potential clients of the Service should be those who feel a sense of social isolation due to loneliness, dementia, bereavement, ill-health, disability, social disadvantage or vulnerable; especially due to frailty, physical impairments or care duties which unfortunately prevents from leaving their homes.

How to Request a Befriender?

We operate an open referral system which means people can self-refer or be referred by their GP, family, friends or providers of health and social care.

It is important that the person being referred is made aware of the referral.

For more information or if you are interested in receiving our services, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you.



Your Information

The information you give us may be recorded on both digital (computer) and paper record. It may be shared with other organizations, but only with your consent. However, we may share your information if we believe it is urgent for your wellbeing.

We are committed to data protection and we will take great care to ensure your data is properly looked after in line with current legislation.

Azure Befriending Service

We rely on generous donations as we receive only small proportion of funding to run our various services to protect the individuals we serve, particularly those with vulnerabilities.



Changing Lives

Do you have a spare 2 hours per week? We all need someone at some point, that can offer us support when it is needed, but not everyone has someone. For all our elderly and vulnerable who have become isolated due to ill-health, disability, or any other social disadvantage, being matched with an Azure Befriending Volunteer can help fill a big gap.

As individuals within our community, we are all different, but still share common needs. If you find yourself feeling lonely, or difficult to get out and about, we offer help and friendship to reduce loneliness and isolation. It is important to ask for help. Get in Touch



CONTACT

Volunteer Coordinator on 07511-868209

Email: azure@bc sca.org.uk

Azure Befriending Service is a project of:

Bedford Caribbean Senior Citizen's Association

**The Azure Befriending Service has been funded by a grant
from the Harpur Trust**



**HARPUR
TRUST**