

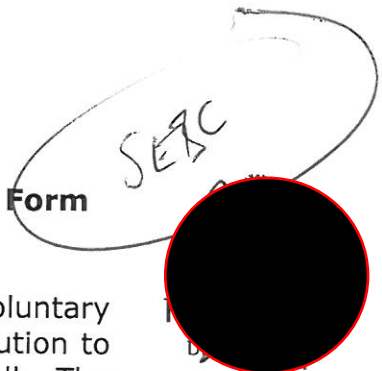
Community Chest Application Summary 2016/2017

Local Authority	St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Organisation	The Voluntary Network – Befriending Connect Service
Amount Requested	<i>Yr1 - £9,860 / Yr2 £10,238 / Yr3 £10,800 £30,898 over three years</i>
Total Project Cost	£61,796
Match Funding	Volunteers Time
Partnerships	Age UK Suffolk along with a number of Community Organisations
West Suffolk Bid?	Yes

Key Points

- A team of volunteers currently provide one to one support to people who would otherwise be isolated.
- Volunteers spend an hour per week offering friendship and support.
- Funding is sought to further develop the service. Some clients would benefit from extending contact beyond one to one visits. In particular many would welcome attending Day Centres or social groups but need support to help resolve any barriers such as confidence or access. Some people would simply like to go out for a cup of coffee at a garden centre.
- Referrals are received from a wide range of organisations. The proposed Befriending Connect service will enable links with a wide range of community based organisations.

**St Edmundsbury District Council
Community Chest Grant Application Form
Part A**



Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury councils

West Suffolk
working together

Community Chest funding supports voluntary community groups who make a contribution to quality of life for people in West Suffolk. The information you provide will help us consider your application. If you have any questions, please give us a call on 01638 719763. Before completing this form, we ask you to please read the guidelines, which are available on:
<http://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-grants.cfm>

Please return your completed, signed form and supplementary documents to:
richard.baldwin@westsuffolk.gov.uk

1. Name of your organisation(s): The Voluntary Network

2. Organisation address details

Address Ln1	The Old Courts		
Address Ln2	147 All Saints Road		
Address Ln3			
City/Town	Newmarket	Postcode	CB8 8HH
Main phone	01638 608022	E-mail	caroline@thevoluntarynetwork.org
Website	www.thevoluntarynetwork.org		

Main Contact Person		Second Contact Person	
Title	Mrs	Title	Mrs
Forename	Caroline	Forename	Amanda
Surname	Robinson	Surname	Larcombe
Role	Manager	Role	Befriending Co-ordinator
Daytime Tel No.	01638 608022	Daytime Tel No.	[REDACTED]
Mobile No.	[REDACTED]	Mobile No.	
Email	As above	Email	amanda@thevoluntarynetwork.org
Address Details (if different from Org address)		Address Details (if different from Org address)	
Ln1		Ln1	
Ln2		Ln2	
Town		Town	
Post Code		Post Code	

About your organisation

3. What local authority area(s) does your organisation work in?

Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury

*Community Chest funding is offered by both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury councils. As the decision making process is different any projects applying for funding across West Suffolk, must apply separately.

4. What is the status of your organisation?

Registered charity	X	Charity number:1082478
Applying for charitable status		
Company limited by guarantee	X	Company number: 3954998
Community Interest Company		
Part of a larger regional or national charity (Please state which one)		
Constituted Community Group		
Social Enterprise		
Other (Please specify)		

5. How many people are involved in your organisation?

Management committee	4	Service users	2000
Full Time staff / workers	2	Volunteers and helpers (non-management)	200
Part Time staff / workers	24		

6. What is the purpose of your organisation? Please briefly describe why your organisation was set up, its aims and objectives and who primarily benefits from your organisation.

The Voluntary Network operates Community Transport and a Befriending Service. We provide support across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury, with offices in both Newmarket and Haverhill.

All our services are aimed at supporting the most vulnerable members of our community. Predominantly older people, helping them to maintain their highly valued independent living. Our services promote interaction, be it socially attending day centres, social clubs or being visited by a Befriender. We also promote preventative measures, Community Transport assists people to attend medical appointments, independent active living promotes healthier lifestyle, social interaction promotes a greater sense of wellbeing reducing the onset of mental health issues.

7. What was your organisation's total income for last financial year?
8. What was your organisation's total expenditure for last financial year?
9. Does your organisation have more than six months running costs? Yes / **No**
10. What are your organisation's current unrestricted reserves or savings?
11. West Suffolk prioritises building resilient families and communities that are healthy and active. Please indicate which of the following areas your project contributes towards:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accessible countryside and green spaces.

About your project – why are you applying for this funding?

12. What do you want the funding for? Please be specific. Please note that 'project' is meant to describe the project for which you are seeking funding, and not your organisation.

Befriending Service – Team of volunteers provide one to one support to those who would otherwise be isolated. Volunteers spend an hour per week to offer friendship and support. Volunteers are DBS checked and trained. Clients are risk assessed and matched with a suitable volunteer. We accept referrals from GPs, Social Services, Family and other voluntary organisations.

We propose to further develop the service with Befriending Connect. We have established that some Clients would benefit from extending contact beyond one to one visits. In particular, many would welcome attending Day Centres or social groups but would welcome the support of the service to help to identify and resolve any barriers – such as transport. Welcoming support of Befriender to accompany them for the first few visits –building confidence.

It is important that our service works in partnership with other community groups that improve wellbeing, not in isolation. As such the service will evolve to link in with an ever increasing community resilience.

Some would simply like to go out for a cup of coffee at a Garden Centre. Which would require a risk assessment considering access/mobility, sourcing transport, safeguarding measures in place so that volunteers can use their own vehicles.

13. How has the project been developed out of the community's desire to improve the lives of local people? What evidence do you have that there is a need for this project? Please include sources of evidence, including any public/user/community consultation.

The Befriending Service initially was operated by the Forest Heath Volunteer Centre. Placements were done on an ad hoc basis as requested. We later secured a 3 year funding arrangement to employ a dedicated co-ordinator in order to better serve demand and to extend the project across St Edmundsbury. Please find attached a summary of recent befriending activity. I am also enclosing survey results for both Clients and Volunteers and two Case Studies.

Age UK – Loneliness in Later Life reports

- People with a high degree of loneliness are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's as people with a low degree of loneliness
- Loneliness can be as harmful for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day
- Those with strong social connections have a 50% increased likelihood of survival after an average follow-up time of 7.5 years
- Nearly 200,000 older people do not receive the help they need to get out of their house or flat

We currently have 102 volunteers involved in providing our service.

14. How will the project help local people to support one another?

We have a team of volunteers who act as Befrienders, supporting the most vulnerable members of their community. Volunteers provide a link for someone who is ordinarily quite isolated from the outside world, our survey reports that 90% of clients felt the service was vitally important to them. The Volunteers also report positive outcomes, our survey reports 49% of volunteers gained a personal greater sense of wellbeing. Volunteer roles will be further developed to include administration, conducting introduction visits, accompanying risk assessments and promotional activities. All of which extends their skillsets and engagement.

Volunteers are well placed to identify any other needs, perhaps not coping so well with mealtimes – they are able to encourage the client to take steps to seek assistance, with TVN able to signpost to the relative support agency.

15. Are you working with any other organisations on this project? **Yes**

If yes, please state the names of these groups and the nature of the relationship.

We receive referrals from a wide range of organisations as attached. We have previously been funded by Age UK Suffolk and will continue to work alongside them. Our proposed Befriending Connect service will enable us to link our Clients to many community based organisations – Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds Day Centres, Fit as a Fiddle, Haverhill Lunch Club, U3A, Davis Club, Gatehouse, Glastonbury Court, Top Time and many others. We will look to work together with local housing partnerships, social services and other healthcare providers.

16. When will the project start?

17. When will the project finish? or is the project ongoing?

If this is an ongoing project, how will it be funded and continue going when the funding ends?

It is vital that we ensure that the one to one Befriending Service is free to our Clients. Our clients would invariably find any cost to be barrier and somewhat undermines the principle of volunteers offering their friendship.

We would looking for clients to privately fund any social activities they choose to engage with, such as Day Centres.

As such there are no revenue streams to be generated from this type of project, we would therefore look to further grant funding.

18. Which years funding are you applying for?

19. How many people do you expect to benefit directly from the project on either a weekly, monthly or annual basis?

20. What results (including targets/numbers) do you expect to see as a result of the funding and how do these relate to the Community Chest funding criteria?

- **A thriving voluntary sector and active communities who take the initiative to help the most vulnerable.** We will increase our number of volunteers by 20% per annum. Befriending Connect will put in place new social activities Yr1-25, Yr2-40, Yr3-55. These will engage with over 10 voluntary organisations in Yr1, to be increased thereafter.
- **People playing a greater role in determining the future of their communities.** We will increase our number of volunteers by 20% per annum. We will further increase the volunteer roles available extending skillsets, a further 4 roles. We will carry out a training analysis, identify appropriate training courses.
- **Improved wellbeing, physical and mental health.** We anticipate an increase in the number of Clients. As per anticipated growth table attached. We will carry out annual surveys, specifically identifying and monitoring the positive effect of the service.

21. What is the total cost of the project?

£61796

Please provide a full breakdown of the total cost of this project, including VAT if applicable along with any in-kind contributions such as volunteer hours.

Item or activity	Cost (£)
Please see attached Budget	
Total cost of items listed above:	

22. How much funding are you applying to us for?

£30898 – over 3 years

23. What funds have you raised so far for this project?

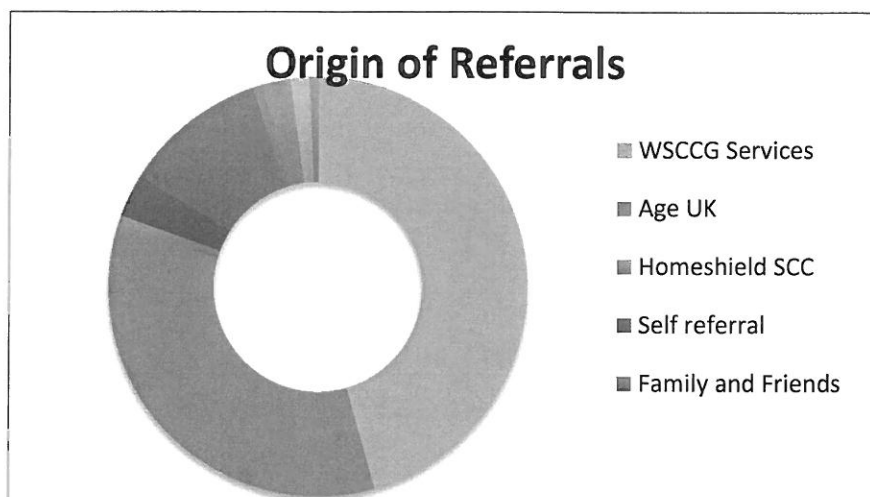
Source	Amount (£)
None	
Total fundraising:	

24. What other funders have you applied to for further funding for the project?

Funder	Amount (£)	Timescale for decision
Community Chest Forest Heath – 50% of 3 year total costs We could operate each part of the service individually. However Economies of scale would be enhanced by linking the two funding streams. We would also make better use of staff and volunteer expertise	30898	December 2015
Total:	30898	

25. What other grants and contracts has your organisation received over the past year from either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council?

Funder	Amount (£)	Reason for funding
St Edmundsbury District Council		Community Transport
Total:		



Method of Referral	Number of Clients
West Suffolk CCG Service Partners	124
Age UK Suffolk	92
Family and Friends	30
Self Referrals	9
Forest Heath District Council	4
Newmarket Day Centre	2
St Nicholas Hospice	2
Homeshield	3
Welcome Home Service	2
Others	4
Total	272

Breakdown of West Suffolk CC Service Partners

Referral Partner	Number of Clients
Social Services	41
ACS	27
GP	25
Community Mental Health	21
District Nurses	5
Bury South IDT	3
NSFT	2
Total	124

Befriending Budget - St Edmundsbury

Expenditure	16-17	17-18	18-19	Notes
Salaries Co-ordinator 20 hours per week @ £9.50 yr1	4940	4940	5039	2% inc on yr 3
Management Time	550	550	561	2% inc on yr 3
NI	230	230	235	2% inc on yr 3
Training Costs	250	250	250	
Vol Exps Befriending Service	650	750	900	
Vol Exps Befriending Connect	350	450	550	
Staff Exps – Risk Assessments etc	550	650	750	
Safeguarding	270	300	350	
Rent	650	650	650	
Telephone/Mobile	240	240	240	
IT Costs	450	450	450	
Stationery	150	163	175	
Insurance	210	210	210	
Printing – Induction Packs, Marketing	300	325	350	
Postage	70	80	90	
TOTALS	9860	10238	10800	

We anticipate further involving volunteers with development support, including administration, assisting with introduction visits and general promotion of the service. Extending our volunteers skill sets and encouraging greater engagement.

We are hoping to secure a 3 year funding arrangement in order sustain and develop this service.