

Make a Friend, Be a Friend

The Make a Friend, Be a Friend project (MFBF) is a new initiative run by Carer Support Wiltshire. The project aims to connect residents who may be lonely or isolated with local organisations and groups which can offer support or social inclusion.

Who?

Our key audience is older people who may be feeling lonely and/or isolated. This may or may not include those who are also carers.

How?

We will reach out to local communities by advertising a new telephone service via residential mailings, posters in key venues (e.g. Libraries and GP surgeries) and through personal referrals (e.g. GPs). We've chosen this approach as our audience are less likely to use the internet.

Callers will be asked about their interests and the issues causing or adding to their isolation. We will match people to local community groups, clubs, and support services who have signed up to the project.

Where?

The project is being rolled out gradually in Melksham, Corsham and Trowbridge.

When?

- Melksham Mailings – w/c 14th January & 11th February 2019
- Corsham Mailings – w/c 25th February & 11th March 2019
- Trowbridge Mailings – w/c 25th March, 8th & 29th April 2019

What will Groups be required to do?

Participating groups will need to:

- Call those who have expressed an interest in their group or activity, to ensure they can support and encourage the first visit, and to check that both parties have all the information that they need;
- Provide contact details and commit to respond to any new enquiry within 1 week of notification;
- Provide feedback after the project has been running for a while, to ensure we capture successes and key learnings.

How can groups be part of this?

We just need your contact details, some information about your group and a commitment to get back to people quickly and support them when attending. We have a simple online sign-up form, which takes less than 10 minutes to complete:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MFBFproject>