

Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships- Proposal Form



Reference number (office use)

Amount of funding requested: **£14,332.40**

Which **neighbourhood** is this project for:

North Lewisham: Brockley, Evelyn,
New Cross, Telegraph Hill

Project title: Better Together

SECTION A: Your organisation

Organisation	Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) Entelechy Arts (EA).	
Contact person	Evelyn Brady	
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Address incl Post Code	Lewisham Central Community Hub, Ground Floor, Leemore Centre, 29-39 Clarendon Rise, SE13 5ES	
Email address	evelyn@vslonline.org.uk	

If an organisation will be receiving the funds on your behalf please provide details below:

Delivery Organisation	
Contact person	
Telephone	
Address incl Post Code	
Email address	

SECTION B: The Project

Which priorities does your application address – please see guidelines for additional information on each priority

Long Term Health Conditions	X
Mental Health and Wellbeing	X
Access to Information	X

2. Who in the community is your project targeted at and how will you ensure that the project supports people across the neighbourhood?

VSL and EA will work in partnership with the purpose of delivering befriending services for **isolated vulnerable older adults** living in area 1, which are in the most 10% of deprived areas in the whole country. Our overall aim is to continue and build on previous successful pilot befriending projects that both organisations have delivered in the area. Our two organisations, both with considerable experience of working with vulnerable older adults, will develop a joint programme that brings together two distinct approaches to supporting isolated and vulnerable older people to be recognised, valued and contributing members of their communities.

The project monies will be utilised to employ two part time project workers to coordinate a weekly **befriending service** which will include the following:

- one-one relationships – telephone and face to face;
- a weekly group session based in the Pepys Resource Centre;
- weekly group sessions taking place throughout the neighbourhood including The Albany, The Deptford Lounge, and Sheltered Housing Schemes.

This will address all three priorities which have been identified by the Neighbourhood Community Development partnership (NCDP1)

These are:

- Long Term Health Conditions
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Access to Information

The project workers will develop effective partnership working with local groups and organisations to identify suitable referrals.

The befriending will be delivered across of the neighbourhood including individuals' own homes, sheltered housing schemes. The group befriending will utilise community spaces including the Pepys Resource Centre, The Albany, Deptford Lounge and the lounges of sheltered housing schemes, ensuring that the project is supporting people across neighbourhood 1.

We will recruit volunteers who live locally to support with the project. (Befrienders, Group Facilitators, Escorts and Drivers – to support the most vulnerable service users so that they can access the sessions, ensuring all residents across Neighbourhood 1 who wish to attend can do so.)

3. What are the benefits and health outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of the project?

Project benefits and health outcomes:

- Reduced isolation
- Increased physical activity promoting better physical and mental wellbeing
- Increased community participation and more engagement in community activities
- Improved intergenerational interaction bringing communities together
- Increased independence and improved confidence and mental health
- Learning new skills
- Volunteers and service users feel more connected through shared experiences
- More positive relationships with group members

The project aims to achieve the following outputs:

- Connecting with 70 vulnerable older people through befriending services
- 30 volunteers recruited to escort service users and/or facilitate groups.

4. When will the activity take place:

Start Date: January 5th 2018 – subject to the funding being received

(Please note it can take up to 8 weeks after the decision on funding to be confirmed for you to be paid).

End Date: 31st December 2018

*(Please note that the project must be completed by the end of **March 2019**)*

5. Locations where the activities will take place:

The project will be held at:

- the Pepys Resource Centre, a community hub and library;
- the Albany;
- Deptford Lounge;
- Sheltered Housing Schemes;
- Individuals' homes

N.B. There will be health walks exploring the neighbourhood 1 area and outings to places of interest.

6. How will you work with others to deliver the project? (For example will your project involve local residents, Community Connections, Council officers or other partners? Use this space to tell us how they will be involved during the different phases of the project):

We will work with a range of community organisations including;

Community Connections

Will support the project by identifying hard to reach clients and signpost potential volunteers to the project.

Eco Communities

Will support the project by providing the space and IT equipment at the Pepys Resource Centre.

Montage Theatre Arts

Will design, resource and deliver music and singing workshops.

Lewisham Healthy walks

Will provide a volunteer walk leader to plan and lead on healthy walks in the local area.

Local Social Housing Providers

Will identify older vulnerable adults who can be referred to the project.

GP Surgeries

Will identify older vulnerable adults who can be referred to the project.

Local Residents

Will volunteer on the project, and assist us to design and deliver the project. Service Users will be an integral part of the project development, delivery and evaluation.

Adult Social Care Team

Will identify older vulnerable adults who can be referred to project.

We anticipate the number of organisations to increase over the duration of the project as more organisations and referral agencies hear about the project.

7. Outline the key risks associated with the project and how you will minimise their impact. (If you are planning an outdoor event, for example, what would happen if it rained?): Remember a risk assessment should be completed.

Risk 1

There are not enough referrals to the befriending service.

Mitigation

We have over 47 years experience with supporting vulnerable people in Lewisham. VSL will use its extensive knowledge and good relationships with Lewisham organisations and Lewisham referrers to promote the project.

Risk 2

Not enough volunteers will be recruited

Mitigation

We will promote the volunteer roles through various Volunteer Centre websites, and our own website and via social media. We will have a recruitment stall at Lewisham shopping Centre and Deptford Lounge. We will attend local volunteering fairs.

Risk 3

The volunteers will not be adequately managed and supported

Mitigation

We have comprehensive policies and procedures for volunteering. VSL has been awarded Investing in Volunteers (IIV) and the NCVO/mentoring and befriending Approved Provider Standard (APS). We run an AQA accredited training programme including Boundaries and Confidentiality, Safeguarding, MHFA, and Communication Skills and have regular support meetings for our volunteers.

8. How will you continue to engage with clients to ensure that they maintain positive health changes achieved after the project ends?

We will continue to engage with clients to ensure they maintain positive health changes in the following ways:

- We will seek further funding to enable the project to develop and continue;
- We will signpost clients to other organisational services both within our remit and across the community;
- We will encourage clients to become volunteers, if appropriate;
- Enabling clients to set up Peer Support Groups so they can continue with the goals and ethos of the project.

In addition we will encourage clients to be self-supporting by:

- Teaching skills to clients to enable them to become self-sufficient and independent and therefore able to maintain their own positive changes;
- Providing coaching tools and templates which clients can use to sustain and improve their positive health changes;
- At the end of the project, facilitating clients to set a new goal which they can carry forward into the future.