



How to contact us

If you would like more information on the Befriending Scheme, please feel free to contact us:

Telephone: (01302) 812485

Write to us: Doncaster Mind Befriending Scheme
27-29 Netherhall Road
Doncaster DN1 2PG

Email: befriending@doncastermind.org.uk

Your client may have quite to wait a while before being linked with the right befriender but they may be interested in activities available at Doncaster Mind's Wellbeing Centre. These activities include open access social cafes, activity groups such as music and art, women's and men's groups and therapeutic support groups.

If your client is nervous about attending any of these activities we will endeavour to meet them and introduce them to the group or activity.

For more information on wellbeing activities please telephone (01302) 812505

www.doncastermind.org.uk



Befriending Scheme



Referral Information



Charity No. 1141146
Company No. 07433894

Befriending

Befriending is

Someone to accompany clients and help them to meet other people

A friendly face	Someone who offers respect
A Listening ear	A non-professional worker
Non-judgemental	Someone who is helpful and kind
Empathic	A constructive and positive person

Befriending is not

A Social worker	A childminder
A medical advisor	A bank manager
An advocate	A cook/cleaner
A counsellor	A taxi service
A home visitor	

Befriending Details

The criteria for referral to the Befriending Scheme is as follows:-

- Clients must be over 18 years
- Experiencing mental health difficulties
- Have the ability and desire to form a friendship
- Require the help of a 'friend' to meet people and reduce their isolation
- Client must be able to leave the home unaided to meet with a volunteer at a mutually agreed place

We do not provide a home visiting service. The volunteer will meet with a client away from the home each week for 6-12 months, subject to availability.

For a client to get full benefit from the service they must be ready to move forward with their lives, as the volunteer will encourage and support them to take part in activities like joining groups, enrolling on courses and generally getting out and about i.e. Walking and visiting places of interest. Although there is no upper age limit a client must be able and willing to work towards reducing their isolation by attending activities so that when the time comes for the befriending friendship to end the client will hopefully be able to continue to take part in social activities independently.

The Befriending Co-ordinators will carry out an initial visit to assess the clients needs and suitability for befriending. Clients with current and serious drink or drug problems and/or aggressive behaviour would not be considered suitable for the Scheme. We are also not able to work with people whose primary difficulty is dementia.

All our volunteers will have completed an extensive Induction Training programme before being linked with a client and they also receive on-going support, supervision and training.

The success of the Befriending Scheme is based on compatibility of the volunteer and client, **not** 'first come, first served', so please be patient if your client is not matched with a befriender quickly.