

10th September 2015

Applications open for Brightlife funding to help combat social isolation amongst older people in Cheshire West and Chester

Brightlife is a Big Lottery-funded project being led by older people across Cheshire West and Chester. It aims to reduce social isolation by commissioning a unique programme of activities, chosen by older people, with the focus on those aged 50+.

Brightlife is now inviting organisations to complete a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) so they will be able to bid for funding opportunities when they are announced on the Brightlife website (www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk) in January 2016.

How it will work:

- Organisations submit a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)
- Successful organisations will join a 'Brightlife Bank' of potential providers
- Older people identify the needs of their communities
- Brightlife invites potential providers to bid to meet these needs
- Older people decide which organisations they'd like commissioned

Head of Brightlife, Adam Shaw comments: "With 36% of residents over 65 living alone in the borough, it is vitally important that we develop innovative and fit-for-purpose support that will help create a better life for our older people."

He continues "Brightlife welcomes tenders from small, informal groups as well as established third sector bodies and will ensure that funds are accessible to everyone. We are aware of many smaller organisations in the borough with fantastic ideas and networks currently unable to access funding opportunities for various reasons. Brightlife will be providing hands-on support to these organisations through workshops and training to ensure that all the brightest ideas get commissioned."

Commissioning and Contracts Manager Adele Gatley adds, "Everyone who has a good idea about how we can reduce social isolation should sign up today! If your application to qualify is successful, you will receive details of all commissioning opportunities as they arise (starting in January 2016). In the meantime, I am more than happy to speak to and advise anyone with queries or concerns. "

Contact:

Adele Gatley – Brightlife Commissioning and Contracts Manager

Tel: 01606 884444 Mob: 07467 045492

Email: adele.gatley@brightlifecheshire.org.uk

Web: www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk (from 21st September 2015)

Notes to Editors:

- Brightlife has been awarded £5m as part of the Big Lottery's Fulfilling Lives, Ageing Better fund, which has given a total of £82m to 15 areas throughout England in order to improve the lives of up to 200,000 older people.
- Over the next five years, Brightlife will be working in partnership with a range of local agencies from across the voluntary, public and private sectors to identify, design and implement a wide range of innovative solutions to address social isolation in older people across the county. Working closely with older people, it will develop a greater number of sociable services by utilising existing assets including the creation of a social pharmacy. This will be designed to complement any medical care as part of a holistic care package.
- The Brightlife partnership includes: Age UK Cheshire, Older People's Network, Cheshire West and Chester Council, West Cheshire CCG, Vale Royal CCG, Cheshire and Warrington Social Enterprise Partnership, Chester Voluntary Action, Deafness Support Network, Rural Community Services, Sanctuary Housing and West Cheshire Inter Faith Forum.
- National Older People's Day is on 1st October every year to coincide with the UN International Day of Older Persons. The main aim for the day is to be a celebration of the achievements and contributions that older people make to our society and the economy, and to challenge negative attitudes and outdated stereotypes.

**Brightlife is a partnership led by Age UK Cheshire.
Registered Charity Number 1091608.**