

PRESS RELEASE 22/11/15

Brightlife to fund new schemes to help older people in Malpas and Winsford

Brightlife, the pioneering, Big Lottery-funded project set up to improve the lives of older people across Cheshire West and Chester, has announced that it is making nearly £200,000 of funding available for five new initiatives in the Malpas and Winsford region.

Contracts to run two befriending schemes, two activity taster schemes and one rural/outdoors scheme are now open for tender until the deadline of 8th January 2016. Eligible organisations are invited to apply by downloading details from the Brightlife website at <http://www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk> > Brightlife for Professionals > Commissioning.

The contracts have been developed ‘by older people, for older people,’ with the proposed initiatives being based on feedback from older people living in Malpas and Winsford, and the successful applicants being chosen by a board of older people working closely with Brightlife.

Brightlife Commissioning Manager Adele Gatley emphasises that applications are welcomed from small, informal groups as well as established third sector bodies:

“We are aware of many smaller organisations in the borough with fantastic ideas and networks currently unable to access funding opportunities for various reasons. We will be providing hands-on support to these organisations through workshops and training to ensure that all the brightest ideas get commissioned.”

The new opportunities join two previously released Brightlife contract tenders, one to provide business support and the other to launch a local food-sharing scheme, both open for applications on the Brightlife website until 4th December.

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Notes to Editors:

- Brightlife is a partnership led by Age UK Cheshire (Registered Charity Number 1091608). It 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.
- 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.
- Over the next five years, Brightlife aims to work closely with older people to identify, design and implement a wide range of innovative solutions to address loneliness and isolation across Cheshire West and Chester.
- Nationally, over 1 million older people say they are always or often feel lonely, and two-fifths say the television is their main form of company. With the numbers of older people aged 65 or over in the UK predicted to rise by nearly 50% in the next 20 years, loneliness is an urgent problem.