

PRESS RELEASE 16/08/16

Up to £200,000 released for new schemes to improve the lives of over-50s in Chester

Funding has been released for three new projects in Chester, to cultivate digital skills amongst older people, encourage arts participation, and to create an ‘age friendly’ neighbourhood in the city.

Brightlife, the Big Lottery-funded organisation set up to improve the lives of older people in Cheshire West and Chester, is inviting organisations from across the region to apply for the following opportunities:

Digital Technology in Chester – a two-year, £60,000 contract to deliver an intergenerational IT skills training scheme. Many older people lack confidence around digital technology, leading to exclusion from online services and an increased risk of social isolation. The aim of the project is to bring younger people together with older people to help them develop practical IT skills, including safely accessing the internet, using emails securely, and learning how to use video technology and basic office software.

Arts of Ageing – a two-year, £60,000 contract to deliver a project that encourages local participation in the Arts. Whether it’s by joining a choir, attending the theatre, or taking a painting, writing or dancing class, getting involved in the arts can improve both physical and mental wellbeing for older people. It can also have a huge impact on loneliness, as people are able to get out of the house, meet new friends and build confidence. This project will work with socially isolated older people in Chester to develop and deliver a programme of arts-based activities.

Age Friendly Lache – a three-year, £76,000 contract to deliver a project to enable the community of Lache to become ‘age-friendly’. With more than 1500 people in the community aged over 50, Lache has a high concentration of older people, many of whom have a high risk of social isolation. The aim of this project is to develop accessible structures, services and activities to meet the needs of all older people in the area, allowing them to stay active and to use their skills and knowledge for the benefit of their community.

Brightlife will be running information and support workshops for anyone interested in applying for these opportunities. Details of the workshops are as follows:

2nd September 2016, 10am-1pm, Hoole Community Centre, Westminster Rd, Chester CH2 3AU

15th September 2016, 10am-1pm, United Reform Church, 121 Saughall Road, CH1 5ET

For more information, visit www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk > Get Funded.

<ENDS>

Contact:

Cath Logan – Brightlife Marketing and Communications Manager

Tel: 01606 884444

Mob: 07765 960089

Email: cath.logan@brightlifecheshire.org.uk

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
www.brightlifecheshire.org.uk
- 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.