



NEWS RELEASE

STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR LOCAL BEFRIENDING SERVICE

Older people in Derby and Derbyshire can now be assured that they have access to the highest quality support to reduce isolation and loneliness.

The Age UK Derby and Derbyshire's Befriending Service has been awarded the Approved Provider Accreditation (APS) from the Mentoring and Befriending Foundation (MBF), a quality mark which is only awarded to organisations that meet the MBF's stringent and highly respected national quality standards.

Penny Butcher of Age UK Derby and Derbyshire, said: "This is great news for our service, and testament to the fantastic hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff. This is a nationally recognised award which also gives confidence to those using the Befriending Service that we operate to the highest possible standards, and that we are a trusted provider.

"We know that our volunteer befrienders find this an enormously rewarding and enjoyable role, and I would recommend anyone with just an hour or two to spare a week gets in touch to find out more about befriending opportunities with us."

In order to receive the award Age UK & Derbyshire's Befriending Service had to provide evidence that they were running a safe, effective, and quality service. The external assessor met with the members of the befriending team, and was extremely impressed with the dedication of the staff and volunteers.

She commented "this is one of the best befriending groups she had seen in a long while" and "that she found the staff and volunteers very caring and passionate about those that they befriended".

Age UK Derby and Derbyshire Befriending service covers the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas. It provides social support and companionship to older people living in the community, who are isolated, vulnerable or lonely.

The service is constantly expanding and survives because of the marvellous support of volunteers. If you would like to support this service by becoming a volunteer or you know someone who would benefit from using the service, then please contact the Age UK Office 01433 620263, and with your help the service can hopefully continue to support many more people that are isolated and lonely.

