

**Friends in Need**  
**Local Authority Grant Scheme**  
**August 2020**

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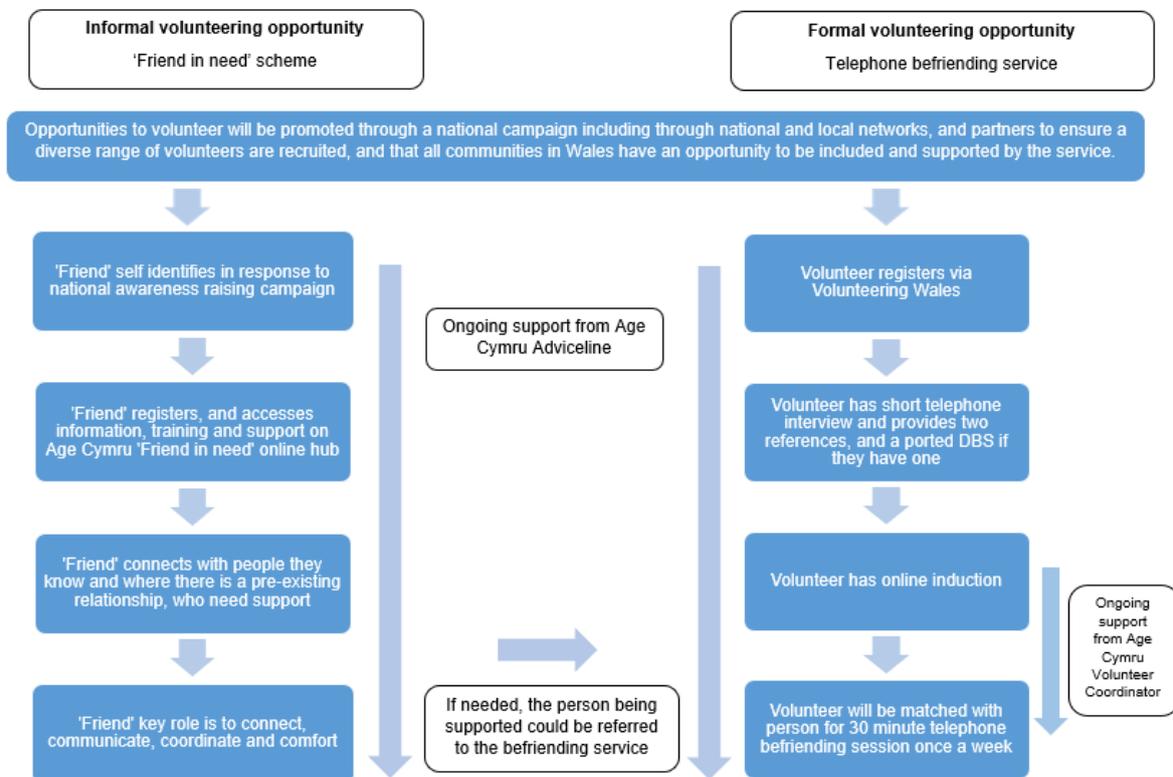
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## 1. Programme Overview

1. The Wales 'Ffrind mewn Angen' 'Friend in Need' scheme will enable a person needing support to identify supporters who would help them during the Coronavirus Crisis. At least two 'Friends' in separate households would need to be available for each person needing support, and quarantine requirements may mean that more telephone, commodity 'drop off' and virtual support will be necessary with Coronavirus than was the case for 'swine flu'. No face to face contact with the person being supported would be expected if they or their 'Friends' became unwell.
2. Specifically a Wales 'Ffrind mewn Angen' 'Friend in Need' would be signposted to key sources of advice and support. They would have four key functions; Connect, Communicate, Coordinate and Comfort:
  - **Connect** – Individuals will identify supporters who will take on the informal volunteer role.
  - **Communicate** - Prepare for eventualities that may arise. Discover individual's preferences. Find out what food, medicine and where appropriate fuel stocks person has/needs and enable replenishment directly or by online delivery/pharmacy delivery for example. Help the individual construct a one page summary for any health/social care worker needing to visit/have telephone contact, to assist in the future. Ensure supplies of home self-care cold and flu medicines, checking that there is no medical contraindications with prescribed medicine with local pharmacist.
  - **Co-ordinate** - Assist the normal services that would support the individual, and alert if the person is unwell and may have infection to protect visiting health and social care workers. If person becomes symptomatic, ensure stocks of self-care medicines as above. Liaise with professionals to ensure contingency plans for consumables, incontinence aids, medical supplies, oxygen or any other home needs are prepared for. Ensure contact lists are readily available for the supported person at home and that communication networks are in place.
  - **Comfort** - As many day care and voluntary sector services may experience reduced hours due to staff sickness or temporarily close during Coronavirus peak, regular social contact through telephone/face-time/skype/internet or face to face may be helpful. Social and emotional support to those self- isolating will be beneficial. Helpful materials on supporting emotional health will be made available to Wales 'Ffrind mewn Angen' 'Friend in Need' supporters on websites.

Welsh Government has awarded funding to Age Cymru to develop and deliver support to informal volunteers and to develop a volunteer led telephone befriending service that will complement the work of the informal volunteers. In addition, Welsh

Government has provided additional funds to be distributed to local authorities to support the integration and delivery of the projects with existing programmes.



## 2. Grant Purpose

The overarching purpose of the grant is to enable local authorities to ensure links in each local authority area to the Friends In Need Programme, both the formal and informal volunteer roles and to ensure that Friends in Need can add value or dovetails to existing programmes. It is envisaged that the grant will be used for activities such as (but not limited to) providing training for volunteers, increasing capacity for existing programmes of work, supporting the development of digital skills to increase inclusions.

Age Cymru will be responsible for distributing the identified grant funds to local authorities, for example, to add capacity to community connectors.

Grants will be agreed by the project steering group and administration will be carried by Age Cymru.

### 2.1 Who can access the funds?

The £285,000 funding is for all local authorities in Wales. It is the intention that each local authority area will benefit from this fund. It is proposed that the fund is distributed equally, although authorities can choose to pool this with colleagues.

Age Cymru is responsible for the appropriate use of the fund and we need to be able to demonstrate the impact the funds have had on older people at this time.

Therefore local authorities will be asked

- To tell us how the funding available to each authority will be spent. They will be expected to be able to demonstrate that they have consulted relevant partners such as the local county voluntary council and that projects add value to existing provision.
- To provide light touch reporting on the activities undertaken and the outcomes achieved.

We are keen to keep these processes as simple and straightforward as possible.

We would support proposals from local authorities working together.

## 2.2 Application requirements

In order to allocate the funds we will ask you to provide information on the following through our on-line grant portal

- (i) Name and contact at LA (for the purposes of issuing the grant)
- (ii) Name and contact for the lead responsible for the for the management of the project/submission monitoring info and in some cases it may be the agreed contact for the grant
- (iii) Aims and Objectives of the bid: How would you use the funding?
- (iv) How do envisage implementing your project in partnership with other partners and stakeholders? Who will you collaborate with?
- (v) How many people will you reach?
- (vi) How will you evidence this? What will the outcomes be?
- (vii) How will you sustain the benefits of the project?

## 3. Financial Information

The funding will be in the form of a grant made payable to the Local Authority or their designated provider of the project. The funding will be restricted to the activities in the grant agreement.

If local authorities agree to receive funding as a group one organisation will be the lead partner and will receive the funds and be responsible for making payments to the other partners.

In addition to the information requested above, we would also request a budget breakdown showing spend for the activities funded across the period of delivery.

## 4. Decision-making

The project steering group will make final decisions on the funding allocations. The decisions will be based on whether the application

1. Supports the priorities for action outlined in Connected Communities

2. Supports and or integrates with the Friend in Need programme
3. Provides value for money

The grant allocation will be agreed by a panel including Age Cymru, WLGA, WCVA, WG and a representative of the Welsh Senate of Older People.

## 5. Reporting

The reporting will be based on the activity delivered and outcomes identified within the application. It will include

- Number of people reached
- Outcomes achieved
- Spend against budget to date.
- Case Study

There will be a mid-point report and an end of project report.

## 6. Timeline

<b>Key dates</b>	
Application process opens	August 2020
Application process ends	14 September 2020
Confirmation email sent to local authorities	By 21 September 2020
Grant payment 1	By end September 2020
Grant payment 2	By end December 2020
Monitoring schedule	Interim report by 11 December 2020.
Delivery end date	31 March 2021