Welcome Pack

Edgbaston Neighbourhood Network Scheme

ENNS

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What is a Neighbourhood Network Scheme?

Neighbourhood Network Schemes (NNSs) are constituency-based networks, designed to help local people establish activities and services that bring together people aged 50 and over.

Part of Birmingham City Council's new community social work model, Neighbourhood Network Schemes help local communities to better support older people, by combating social isolation and loneliness. They do this by supporting community-led groups (including giving them access to grants), building relationships, and acting as a central co-ordination point for the creation of a strong local network.

Edgbaston Neighbourhood Network Scheme (ENNS) covers Edgbaston, Harborne, Quinton, Bartley Green, Shenley and Weoley Castle. All community-led activity and social groups based in these areas are encouraged to join the scheme.

Who's involved in Edgbaston NNS?

Birmingham's Neighbourhood Network Schemes are co-ordinated by Birmingham City Council and its Social Work teams.

Edgbaston NNS is led by Gateway Family Services CIC and Age UK Birmingham.

Grants are provided by the Heart of England Community Foundation.

Together with voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, social work teams, funders, MPs and Councillors, we are creating a comprehensive network of community support.

Covid-19 and the current landscape

In March 2020, every NNS in Birmingham switched to focus on support for community organisations, as we all adjusted to events relating to Covid-19 and the resulting isolation.

As communities sprang into action to help each other, Edgbaston NNS acted as co-ordinator, contacting existing community groups, monitoring new offers of Covid-19 support, providing guidance and supporting groups offering Covid-19 assistance. By connecting local groups we are helping to ensure they work together, maximise reach, avoid duplication and fill in gaps.

This work will continue over the next few months. As we come out of lockdown, groups will be offered further support to help them not only get back to normal, but to grow and develop.

The Three Conversations social work model

The Neighbourhood Network Scheme project is integral to changes to Adult Social Care in Birmingham, including the new 'Three Conversations' needs assessment model.

When working with citizens, Social Workers will have three distinct conversations to find out the best way that they can support the individual. Each 'Conversation' is a category of support.

Conversation 1 (initial contact)

- How can I connect you to things that will help you get on with your life – based on your assets, strengths and those of your family?
- What do you want to do?

Conversation 2 (if people are at risk)

- What needs to change to make you safe and regain control?
- How can I help make that happen?

Conversation 3 (if long term support is needed)

- What is a fair personal budget and what are the sources of funding?
- What does a good life look like?
- How can I help you to use your resources to support your chosen life?

Source: https://www.scie.org.uk/future-of-care/asset-based-places/case-studies/three-conversations

For some people who are accessing help from a Social Worker, 'Conversation 1' will be all they need to get the right support. If someone is at risk or facing a crisis they will progress to 'Conversation 2' and where people are requiring long-term support, 'Conversation 3' is taken.

Social Workers are now Constituency based and, through the Neighbourhood Network Scheme, will be given opportunities to link in with assets and activities in the areas where they work. This will help them to build strong relationships with their voluntary and third sector colleagues, ensuring that people who access Adult Social Care can be linked into support and opportunities local to them.

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Birmingham City Council

Grants and funding opportunities

The NNS Edgbaston fund is provided by the Heart of England Community Foundation to support older people to connect with individuals, groups, organisations, activities, services and places in their local neighbourhood. Currently the fund is focusing on supporting older people during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Is your organisation based in the Edgbaston Neighbourhood Network area and supporting older people during the pandemic? Then you may be eligible for funding.

Supporting older people

The Heart of England Community Foundation is currently trying to align support with the main aims of the programme. These are to provide opportunities which support older people to:

- Remain engaged with social activity
- Live healthy lifestyles
- Increase their financial capability
- Retain their independence in their home, whether it is their own home, rented accommodation or independent sheltered housing

Find out more

Funds of up to £10,000 per asset are available. Assets need to be engaged with the wider NNS work and also consider the legacy and sustainability of their work.

For further information please visit the Heart of England Community Foundation website (www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk).

Funding contacts

If you would like to chat with someone at the Edgbaston Neighbourhood Network Scheme about grants and funding opportunities, including ways in which we could support you and your group to meet the eligibility criteria, call 0800 599 9880 or email info@gatewayfs.org.

To contact the Heart of England Community Foundation directly, call Shamiela Ahmed on 07394 567 083 or email Shamiela@heartofenglandcf.co.uk.

Your local Neighbourhood Network

Edgbaston Neighbourhood Network Scheme is co-ordinated by two local organisations:

Gateway Family Services

A Community Interest Company based in Edgbaston providing preventative education, health and wellbeing support services

Age UK Birmingham

An independent local charity working in the Birmingham community to support older people, their families and carers.

How can we help you?

Your local Neighbourhood Network Scheme is here to support you in a variety of ways.

We want to help community-led groups to establish activities and services that bring people together, and to make sure those that are already doing great work are able to continue.

We do this by helping groups to find funding – but we also provide training, advice and networking opportunities, as well as publicising and promoting all the good things that are going on in the Edgbaston neighbourhood.

Contact us

So what do you need to keep doing what you do? What are your hopes and plans for the future? Give us a call, or drop us an email, and let us know. We're here to help.

Freephone telephone number

0800 599 9880

Email address

info@gatewayfs.org

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