

Case Study

Volunteer Link Up has operated in West Oxfordshire since 1983. We offer services for vulnerable people of any age and ability living within West Oxfordshire.

Volunteer Link Up set up an arrangement between Mary*, an elderly woman who was largely confined to her home, and Hannah*, a volunteer in her late teens. Hannah visited every weekend and things just clicked – age was irrelevant, they were simply people who enjoyed each other's company and had fun.

*Names have been changed.



Get in touch

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**Volunteer Link Up works with the
Community Information Network in
partnership with**



Supported by



The Community Information Network is a free local information service for older people in Oxfordshire, run by Age UK Oxfordshire (Charity No. 1091529) in partnership with Volunteer Link Up (Charity No. 1133530) and supported by Oxfordshire County Council.

**Setting up a Good
Neighbour Scheme in
your local community**



**Community
Information
Network**



What is a Good Neighbour Scheme?

Good Neighbour Schemes are **local, voluntary groups** which offer a service in their local community to older, vulnerable and isolated people in need of a little help and support.

Across Oxfordshire there are **more than 80 Good Neighbour Schemes** offering a range of help and support in their local community.

Many of these groups offer assistance with;

- Essential transport, eg, taking people to and from hospital, doctors' surgeries and other non-medical appointments
- Befriending
- Shopping
- Help with gardening and small DIY jobs

All Good Neighbour Schemes are different and revolve in response to the needs that people in their community have.

Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service

The Community Information Network provides a support service for Good Neighbour Schemes across Oxfordshire and has a dedicated Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service Coordinator. The Service is delivered by Volunteer Link Up in partnership with Age UK Oxfordshire and is a project funded by Oxfordshire County Council.

This support service can help you with:

- Access to a start-up grant of up to £500
- Free Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for volunteers
- Insurance Cover
- Good practice guidelines
- Regular Networking Meetings
- Regular Email updates from the Good Neighbour Scheme Support Service Coordinator

How to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme

Anyone can become involved in setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme. Here is an idea of what's involved:

1. Establish whether there is a need for a scheme in your community.
2. Hold a public meeting to identify whether a scheme is what the community wants and who might be interested in getting involved.
3. Form a steering group to oversee the running of the scheme.
4. Decide how your scheme will be coordinated.
5. Decide what services/activities your scheme will offer.
6. Share the work load by assigning members of the steering group to particular roles.
7. Hold an information evening to encourage people to sign-up, volunteer and know what is involved.
8. When the scheme has a few volunteers in place, begin publicising locally.
9. Begin taking requests from clients.
10. When the scheme has been operating for a month or so hold a launch event to generate as much publicity as possible.

Please do get in touch to find out more information.

