


From: Paul Quinn p.quinn@hambledon-pc.gov.uk 
Subject: Re: Call Companions
Date: 3 June 2020 at 21:35
To: Hambledon PC Clerk clerk@hambledon-pc.gov.uk
Cc: Sam Meeson themeesonfamily@gmail.com



I doubt it will be used much, but can go onto the website and out to vols.

PAul

Paul Quinn OBE
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02392632946
07850 646755



On 3 Jun 2020, at 18:34, Hambledon PC <clerk@hambledon-pc.gov.uk> wrote:

Do you think that this could be of benefit (in addition to what our vols are already doing)?

Joanna Tester (Mrs)
Clerk, Hambledon PC
clerk@hambledon-pc.gov.uk

Please note that my working hours are as follows:

Monday - 11.15am to 2.15pm

Tuesday - 9.30am to 2.15pm

Thursday - 10am to 2.15pm

A further three hours worked flexibly throughout the week.

<PastedGraphic-1.png>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Bruce White <bruce.white@cfirst.org.uk>
Subject: Call Companions
Date: 3 June 2020 at 15:54:11 BST
To: undisclosed-recipients;

Please have a look (and pass on if you can) at this excellent scheme for befriending the elderly by phone:

I just wanted to raise awareness of Re-engage's free Call Companions service in case your team is able to refer any of the older people they are linked in with. Many people say that it is so nice to have the chance to chat to more than one or two people in a week, to help break up the days. This is true in normal times, and really exacerbated at the moment.

You may have heard of Re-engage (formerly Contact the Elderly) for it's monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties, where volunteers of all ages use their own cars to collect older guests, and meet in volunteer hosts homes, for tea, cake and companionship. The groups are small and friendly and most people are part of the same group for many years.

As our tea parties are suspended due to Coronavirus, we have developed and launched Call Companions - telephone befriending scheme.

The scheme will become part of the services we offer – it is not just for lockdown. A volunteer call companion will call the same older person between two and four times a month at a mutually agreed time for an informal chat. Calls will last for around 30 minutes.

The calls are about friendship and friendliness not about ‘care and support’ etc. the volunteers love it because they have someone to chat to about last night’s TV etc. It really is a fun chat about anything and everything.

Our volunteers all receive training, which includes safeguarding, signposting to other services, and how to engage in difficult conversations. They are supported by call coordinators who monitor the success of the partnership for both the older person and volunteer. If an older person takes part and subsequently decides it is not for them, there is an easy way for them to leave.

Referrals – case by case but usually for those:

- **Age 75 or older**
- **Living alone or in sheltered housing, often with limited contact with family or friends**
- **Must be able to hear well enough to engage in a telephone conversation**

We do ask the older person for any interests or hobbies, to help spark conversations for those first few chats when they are getting to know each other.

We don’t know when lockdown will end for older people so we are urging people to enrol for Call Companions even if they then move into other activities. It keeps them in touch with the organisation in a good way, so that as and when things change we can offer them the change to re-engage in different ways too.

You can make referrals online or by calling our freephone 0800 716543. We can help go through the application form with someone over the phone if they are calling themselves.

www.reengage.org.uk/refer

Please do ask if you have any questions,
Kind regards
Helen

Helen Ker-Bridges

development officer (Bristol, Bath & Gloucestershire)
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

Re-engage

Telephone: 01225 379057

Re-engage is a registered charity in England and Wales (1146149) and in Scotland (SC039377). Company Number (07869142) Registered office: 2 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH

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Warm regards,

Bruce

Bruce White

Community Development Officer - Winchester

Mobile: 07384 115 320

[Please note I am now working from home: **Wednesday to Friday** - but can be contacted as usual on the number above]

If you need urgent help regarding COVID-19 please contact the Hants4vulnerable Helpline: 0333 370 4000

OR email support@cfirst.org.uk or call 0300 500 8085.

Email: bruce.white@cfirst.org.uk | Website: www.cfirst.org.uk



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