Befriending

Age UK Worcester & District introduced a Befriending service in March 2013 to complement the existing Tele-befriending scheme. ‘Befrienders’ are volunteers who visit clients in their own homes, for at least an hour each fortnight. The scheme aims to ameliorate loneliness and to provide companionship for isolated older people. The scheme helps clients to develop new relationships and for those lacking the confidence to leave their home alone, the opportunity to participate in social activities with a little support and encouragement.

For those who are housebound, the scheme is often the only social contact the client has with the outside world. Volunteer Befrienders are also able to pick up on any support needs, or problems and their concerns can then be relayed to the Befriending Coordinator.

On referral to the scheme, clients are added to the tele-befriending list, meaning they will receive a weekly chat call until a suitable volunteer is found. The weekly calls give the scheme coordinator time to get to know the client, which has proved very useful for the matching process as volunteers join the scheme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category(ies):</th>
<th>Socialising, Companionship /befriending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who it is for:</td>
<td>Befriending is available for older people who live alone, have no family living locally and who feel isolated and lack social contact.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where available:</td>
<td>Local service covering: Worcester (Worcestershire).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**How to access or apply for it:** Please call Tony on 01905 724 294 if you or someone you know would benefit from the scheme, or complete our contact form.

| Info. updated: | 25/04/2016 |

## About the service provider:

**Contact info:** **Age UK Worcester & District:** 9a-10 Mealcheapen Street, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR1 2DH.

**Telephone:** 01905 724 294.

[Visit their website](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/worcesteranddistrict/)

[Find them on a map](#)

**Parent organisation:** [Age UK Worcester & District](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/worcesteranddistrict/)

