

My Life, My Future consultation

The Befriending Scheme grant



What is the Befriending Scheme?



The Befriending Scheme provides friendship and learning opportunities for people through:



**1 to 1
befriending**



**Group
sessions**



**Supported
volunteering**

This booklet explains:



**What you
have told us**



**What are the
proposals**



**What this would
mean for you**

The Befriending Scheme grant

What you have told us

Services around
me



Services must be more personalised, flexible, and offer more choice.



There should be more choice about what to do and when to do it.



It should be easy to make choices, arrange services and make changes.

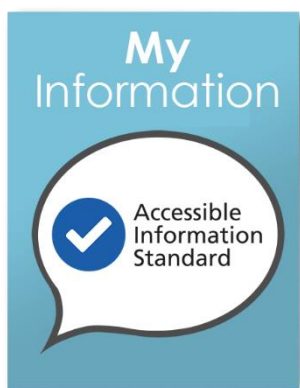


These things were also very important to people:

There should be more opportunities to develop new skills.

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What you have told us



There must be good information about what is available.



There should be support to find paid employment.



We also heard that many people enjoy and value what they currently do. Some people who value their current service were concerned about change.



People asked us to make sure that the approach we take works both for people who are more able and for the most complex needs.

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What are the consultation proposals?



Suffolk County Council currently provides a grant to The Befriending Scheme as an annual lump sum. This grant is used to pay for:



1 to 1 befriending.



Group sessions.



Supported volunteering.

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What are the consultation proposals?



We are talking to The Befriending Scheme about ending this grant.



This consultation is about ending the grant from April 2018.



The consultation is only about the grant that Suffolk County Council pays to the Befriending Scheme, **NOT** about the scheme itself.

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What are the consultation proposals?



We are planning to end the grant arrangement because we want to:



Make sure that all providers are treated fairly.



Support people to choose from a wide range of options, using their personal budget.

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What are the consultation proposals?



We plan to invest the money from on the grant on other services.



We are planning a separate Short-term Enablement service. Some of the grant money will pay for this new service.



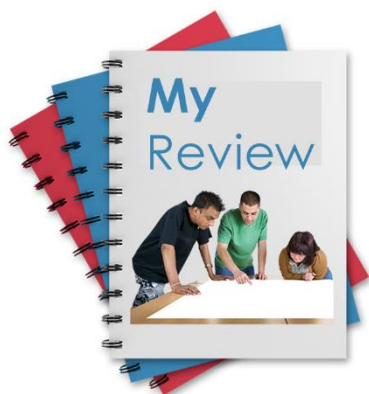
See booklet called **Short-Term Enablement and Drop-In Support Service** for more information.



We are planning to use the rest of the grant to ensure people eligible for social care get a personal budget so they can choose the activities they want.

The Befriending Scheme grant

What this would mean for you



Everyone currently using The Befriending Scheme would be offered an assessment with a social work practitioner to look at whether you meet our eligibility criteria.



If you are eligible you would work with a social work practitioner to agree a personal budget and agree how you spend it.

The Befriending Scheme grant

What this would mean for you



You may be able to choose to continue with the Befriending Scheme if:



The Befriending Scheme applied to be included on the framework and was chosen as a provider,

and



You had a personal budget large enough to cover the cost,

and



The service would meet your accessed needs.

The Befriending Scheme grant

What this would mean for you



Please see **Day, Evening and Weekend Activities** booklet for more information about the Framework, and about things that people choose to do during the day, evening and weekend.



If you did **not** meet the eligibility criteria, you would have new opportunities through the new Short Term Enablement Service and/or the new Drop-In Support Service.



We expect these new services would offer a range of support including making friends and helping you to reach your goals.



Please see **Short-Term Enablement Support and Drop-In Support Service** booklet for more information.



**This booklet was translated into Easy-Read by Ace Anglia,
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