



# Information for Referrers

Improving quality of life through friendship

## What is Two's Company?

Two's Company Befriending Edinburgh is a partnership between Edinburgh City Mission and Linking Lives UK to establish a one to one befriending scheme for older people within Edinburgh. Through the local faith community,

Two's Company offers dependable relationships from volunteer befrienders to older people (65+) in the community who would otherwise experience feelings of loneliness or social isolation. We use a hybrid model of befriending that includes both telephone befriending and home visiting.

## Criteria for Referrals

- They consent to being part of the service offered
- They are able to engage in the befriending support offered either face to face or over the telephone
- They engage with relevant services that help manage any health and well-being difficulties
- They live within the area of the scheme
- They are 65 and older
- We accept those with early stage dementia on a case-by-case basis

## What to expect...

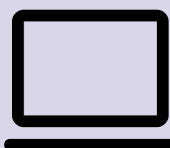
- A friendly weekly phone call or home visit with someone who is experiencing loneliness or isolation
- A voluntary service, run by trained befrienders
- Feedback on the referral and subsequent pairing with a befriender

## What *not* to expect...

- Counselling, coaching or mentoring
- Advice, including welfare advice
- Shopping, personal care or any other practical help

## We are open for referrals!

We welcome referrals if they satisfy our admission criteria. Just visit our website.





## What scheme members have said -

"It's so nice to have someone to talk to and listen to me. If it wasn't for my befriender and the befriending scheme, I would be stranded without any hope."

"My befriender would come on a Monday, and it was as if the sun suddenly shone on my entire week, the remaining days being filled with happy memories."

## Who is Two's Company Befriending for?

The scheme is suitable for those whose situation may be made harder by social isolation or feelings of loneliness. This may be caused through a variety of reasons including **loss of confidence, bereavement, ill health, becoming a carer, distant family or poor social network.**

We call people who are befriended the 'scheme members', recognising that they have a contribution to make, as well as receiving support and friendship.

## How do I make a referral?

01 -

Contact your local Two's Company Coordinator via the information on the back of this leaflet.

02 -

The Coordinator will contact you and ask you to complete a Referral Form, which will ask for details of the person you wish to refer into the scheme.

03 -

We will then carry out an initial assessment with the potential scheme member to determine if they are suitable for Two's Company befriending.

04 -

The Coordinator will inform you of the outcome within 2-3 weeks.



## Contact Us

To find out more about the Two's Company Befriending scheme in your community, please contact

**Naomi Amour**

**Project Coordinator**

**naomi@edinburghcitymission.org.uk**

**07435 246602**



### About Edinburgh City Mission

Our values are pioneering, love, generosity, unity and justice. Our vision is to help create a mission movement across Edinburgh by stimulating and strengthening the church's mission.

[www.edinburghcitymission.org.uk](http://www.edinburghcitymission.org.uk)

**Edinburgh City Mission**

7 Washington Lane, Edinburgh, EH11 2HA  
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### About Linking Lives UK



Linking Lives UK exists to empower and equip churches to significantly impact social isolation and loneliness in local communities.

[www.linkinglives.uk](http://www.linkinglives.uk)

**Linking Lives UK**

Woodley Hill House, Eastcourt Avenue, Earley Berks RG6 1HH  
Registered Charity No. 1170325