

Boundaries scenarios: What's OK?

Please tick the answer you think is appropriate for each scenario:

What happens?	OK	Not OK	OK once
Your befriender has recently been bereaved and you start to visit every other day as he is feeling very lonely.			
When you phone to confirm a visit you had planned, the befriender asks you to pop into the shops for a pint of milk and a cake for you both to share.			
It's Christmas and your befriender mentions that they don't have a Christmas tree in their house. You have a beautiful one in your house so you suggest they come and see it.			
You have an old friend visiting and you decide to take them along with you on a befriending visit so they can meet your young befriender.			
You've been visiting one particular befriender for years and they are about to move away to be closer to their son. As a goodbye gift they want to give you an antique vase from their house which you have always admired.			
Your befriender asks you for help changing the bed and heating up the dinner.			
Your befriender has just been sanctioned by the DWP and has no money. They ask you for a loan until the next visit.			
You find out from a friend that your befriender has been telling everybody all the private things you've shared with them about a recent problem you had. You feel angry about this and decide to challenge them about it.			
You give your befriender a box of chocolates and card on their birthday and they ask you to share a wee glass of bubbly with them to celebrate.			

Examples of common boundaries within befriending

- Befrienders should only visit befriendees at pre-arranged times
- Befrienders should not disclose their home address to befriendees
- Gifts should not be exchanged between befrienders and befriendees unless the coordinator has been informed and has given their agreement. Any gifts exchanged should be tokens with a monetary value of no more than £5.
- Befrienders should not engage in any activities related to the personal hygiene of the befriendees.
- No third parties should be present during befriending visits.
- Befrienders and befriendees should only engage in activities previously agreed with the coordinator.

Defining the boundaries of your befriending service:

Befriending practice area	What's ok for your service?	What's not ok for your service?
Times of visits		
Duration of visits		
Location of visits		
Activities carried out during visits		
People present during visits		
Exchange of gifts		
Handling money		
Physical contact		
Information exchanged		

Communicating the boundaries of your befriending service

How can organisations make service boundaries clear to those who need to know about them?

Communicating boundaries to befrienders ...

Communicating boundaries to befriendees ...

Communicating boundaries to others ...