



Equalities Issues in Befriending

Scenarios

- 1. You are designing a children's befriending service. On considering what you'd look for in a match, is it ok to specify the sex of a befriender?**
 - would this be on a case by case basis, or would it be a policy decision?**
 - would it depend on the sex of the child?**

- 2. You run an older person's befriending service. There is a new referral –an 86 year old man who is very lonely & housebound. When asked who he wants to be matched with, he says he wouldn't want to be put with a volunteer from a minority ethnic community. Is this ok? Why/why not? What if he had dementia? Would this make a difference? What if he was himself from a minority ethnic community & wishes to be matched only with a member of that community?**

- 3. Your new volunteer has told you he is gay. Do you tell the befriender? The befriender's family? Would it be different for a children's befriending service, where the befriender will be**

meeting family members when he collects the child from their home? Does sexual orientation affect your matching?

- 4. In an older people's befriending service, would you try to match people of the same sex? Does the befriender always get to choose?**

- 5. You train a group of new volunteers, and in your final one to one meeting with them before matching, one of them discloses that they have previously had a serious mental health problem. Does this affect your decision making? Would it depend what the problem was? Would it depend who the service users were?**

- 6. Is it important to take the personal preferences of befrienders and befriended into account during the matching process? If so, why? When do preferences become prejudices?**