

# Befriending in the UK



## The difference made by Befriending Networks' Membership 2017/18

Befriending Networks is the umbrella body for befriending services operating across the UK and beyond. We currently have over 250 members.

From the most recent data collected from member projects we can illustrate the levels of service provided by members in 2017/18.

Extrapolating the data across the full membership we can estimate:

**738,000**

Hours of befriending provided

**12,300**

Volunteer befrienders supported

**23,400 people**

provided with 1-1, group or telephone befriending

Annual value =

**£9.2 Million\***

\* Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017(ASHE) Median hourly rate of £12.49 excluding overtime for adult males and females

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Befriending Networks wanted a picture of levels of service delivered by members over the past year. To that end, the recent members' survey included requests for numbers as follows:

- How many people have been supported through 1-1 befriending in the past year?
- If your organisation provides group befriending how many people have attended these groups in the past year?
- If your organisation provides telephone befriending how many people have benefitted from this in the past year?
- How many volunteer befrienders has your organisation supported in the past year?
- Approximately how many hours of befriending have been provided by your organisation in the past year?

### **Numbers supported**

One-to-one = 6006

Group Befriending = 2399

Telephone Befriending = 939

Total numbers supported over the past year = 9344

### **Number of volunteer Befrienders**

Total volunteers over the past year = 4631

### **Number of hours of befriending**

Total hours over the past year = 239268

The response rate for the survey was 29% of membership. Respondents covered a broad range of membership from small to large with an even spread of sizes and covering both urban and rural areas across the UK.

To reach an average number supported by each organisation the highest and lowest two numbers were deducted and the total then divided by 69. This gave a figure of 95 per organisation. The same process was used to calculate an estimated average per organisation of volunteers and number of befriending hours during 2017/18. These were 50 volunteers and 3000 hours.