

## **Guidance for applying to the Befriending Fund**

This funding has been allocated to Befriending Networks through the Scottish Government Winter Support Package, to tackle social isolation and loneliness over the winter period and in response to the particular challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The application process opened on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 **will close 12 noon on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Completed application forms should be emailed to [info@befriending.co.uk](mailto:info@befriending.co.uk) .**

### **Criteria for funding**

- **You must be a current small or medium sized member of Befriending Networks**
- **Be an established Befriending project**
- **Be based in Scotland and this funding will deliver a local project**
- **You can apply for between £2,000 - £5,000** (This funding could be used to increase befriending coordinators working hours, cover additional volunteer expenses or provide digital devices that enable matches to go ahead at a distance)
- **The funding will be used to restart paused matches (through digital) or establish new matches that will tackle social isolation and loneliness during early 2021 week**

We expect that the fund will be oversubscribed and estimate that depending upon the funding requests we will be able to fund between 20 - 40 organisations.

All applications will be assessed to ensure the criteria is met and successful applications will be selected to ensure a balance of different locations across Scotland, including rural and urban and across different ages and groups in society.

Successful applicants will be notified by email week beginning the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and receive their funding later that week.

**If successful you must be willing to complete a short report back on the impact of the funding and provide case studies during April 2021 to Befriending Networks, in order for us to report back on the fund and its outcomes to Scottish Government.**

If you have any further questions please email [Sarah@befriending.co.uk](mailto:Sarah@befriending.co.uk) or call Sarah on 07955251807.