

Supporting volunteers to tackle loneliness

South Tyneside Council works in partnership with voluntary group, South Tyneside Churches Together, to run a befriending service.

The Council gives £11,000 to the group to enable it to carry out its vital work in the community.

The scheme, which sees volunteers visit older, lonely people in their own homes, has proved incredibly popular. The Council and other agencies refer people to the service to help alleviate loneliness and connect people with their communities.

With the public sector facing unprecedented financial challenges, the vital role played by volunteers, community groups and the third sector is becoming increasingly important in delivering the services our residents rely on.

The Council recognises that loneliness can be as bad for your health as chronic health conditions and is keen to do everything it can to keep our older people healthy and well. The scheme has received positive feedback from both older people using the service and befrienders who find it fulfilling to give something back to the community.

To meet the rising demand for the service, the team has organised activity events called 'Happy Hubs' where people can take part in sing-alongs, dominoes, painting, games and craft or just reminisce about times gone by.

For further information contact:

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