

Grant Guidelines

Linking Lives Cymru is a partnership project between [Befriending Networks](#) and [Linking Lives UK](#) to provide support to churches and Christian organisations in Wales to deliver activities that promote social connection and address chronic loneliness and social isolation, especially befriending projects. We are offering organisations a small grant scheme and a comprehensive package of project support, which includes training, advice, resources and peer networks. **This is a time limited opportunity, and the scheme is open for applications until 28th February 2026.**

Successful applicants will receive:

- A one-off **cash grant of £925** towards project costs;
- **Two (2) years membership** with Befriending Networks; and
- **Two (2) years of partnership benefits** with Linking Lives UK.

(Value of membership with Befriending Networks and partnership with Linking Lives worth up to £780)

Benefits of Linking Lives UK Partnership

- Full training for project/activity coordinators
- Support with designing or planning the expansion or sustaining of your project or activity
- Training for volunteer befrienders
- Optional monthly online prayer meetings for project/activity coordinators
- Monthly activity pack with useful tools such as conversation prompts for engaging with socially isolated people in spaces such as warm banks or, coffee mornings

Benefits of Befriending Networks Membership

- Exclusive membership resources, including the Befriender Training Toolkit, example policies and good practice guides for quality befriending
- 1:1 support and guidance from our Membership Services team when you need it



- A 25% discount on all training, including courses on, safeguarding, dementia, bereavement, volunteer recruitment and more
- Regular peer networking with befriending coordinators across Wales and the UK to exchange experiences, get insights and ideas and share challenges

What is befriending?

Befriending is a relationship initiated and supported by an organisation, such as a church, charity or local council. Befriending takes many shapes – one-to-one matches, in-person visits, telephone services, group befriending and more. We can help you design the service that works best for your organisation or church.

Your project or activity:

- Could be existing work on social connection and friendship building
- Could be something you're doing informally that you would like to formalise or sustain
- Could be a new idea which you haven't yet started, and this grant makes it possible.

We will support activities or projects that connect lonely and or socially isolated people with volunteers, for example:

- A 1:1 befriending scheme matching individual volunteers with individual service users, either in your church community or more widely (you could for example, open your scheme to referrals from local health and social care services – this does not mean you need to create something large; you can start with just a few matches). Volunteers might visit people in their homes, or meet in a public place, or in church/community spaces.
- A telephone friendship service where volunteers regularly and routinely call service users for conversation and connection.
- A group scheme where volunteers meet with service users, either as a conversation group or by doing an activity (participants could still be referred in).

You might make your scheme **time-limited** (for example, offering 6 month's befriending to service users) or **open ended**. We are happy to discuss the type of project that works for you.



Your project must promote social connection and address chronic loneliness and social isolation, and you may choose to focus your projects with one or more of the following groups:

- Older people
- House-bound adults
- Adults living alone
- People experiencing life transitions, disadvantage, or marginalisation
- Children and Young People
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Carers

If you are looking to start a new project, the training, resources and other forms of support will help you prepare to launch your project within 6-months of the confirmation of your successful application.

Application Process

- While we do not require a full project outline, please make sure you have a concrete idea for a project or activity and can demonstrate that you have the necessary support from your church leadership or membership to realistically deliver it. You should be able to give an outline of what you will do, where you will do it, who will be involved, and why it is needed.
- Make sure you read the eligibility guidelines and [Terms and Conditions](#)
- Complete the online application form by **28th February 2026**
- Applications will be reviewed and successful applications notified by **13th March 2026**
- Successful applicants must then complete and submit a grant claim/agreement form by 24th March 2026. The grant monies will be paid by 31st March 2026
- Linking Lives UK and Befriending Networks staff will then be in contact to start your support package, this will include arranging training, signposting to resources, and helping you plan for your project and activity.



Reporting and Deliverables

- We will require a short progress report 6 months after receipt of the grant, and another at 12 months
- We will also require a financial report on the spending on the cash grant 12 months after receipt of the grant

Support and Enquiries

Contact Matt Youde, Befriending Development Worker (Wales) for any enquiries related to this scheme: matt@befriending.co.uk **0131 261 8799**