**Good Neighbours Coventry Grant Guidance Form**

**What is Good Neighbours Coventry?**

The Good Neighbours Coventry scheme is an exciting initiative developed by local churches (via HOPE Coventry and Together for Change) in partnership with Age UK Coventry (AUKC) to improve health and wellbeing amongst older people. Working collaboratively, faith organisations and AUKC are seeking to engage with isolated and lonely older people by developing existing social networks and using existing community resources to enable residents to help each other.  This could take the form of group activities, 1:1 befriending support, or low level practical assistance.

The project increases the range of friendship opportunities and activities available for older people within Coventry, as well as significantly increasing reach to isolated and / or lonely older people to help them engage with their communities and maintain their independence.

**How do we do this?**

We provide grants of up to £1,500 for any churches / faith based organisations looking to start up a new older people outreach project. We also provide £500-£1,000 for churches / faith based organisations that are currently running a project for older people.

**Grant Criteria**

1. The activity must be directly related to working with older people. We favour activities that aim to deal with the issue of loneliness.
2. The lead applicant should be a church or organisation with a Christian foundation or in partnership with a faith based community.
3. The activity needs to be based in the local community (Coventry) and to have local community involvement in identifying needs, initiating community responses and running the project.
4. The activity must be open to all regardless of faith, ethnic origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation.
5. The lead applicant must have charitable purposes.
6. The activity must be a new initiative or a proposal to expand the work you are doing.
7. Any unspent grant must be returned.
8. A quarterly monitoring report must be completed.
9. Good Neighbours money can’t be disposed without approval and any funds that are stolen must be replaced. The money can only be used for the project and nothing else.

**Funding will be given to**

1. Projects that commit to providing volunteers for the Good Neighbours scheme (please indicate roughly how many volunteers on the application form)
2. Activity that targets loneliness and isolation in older people

**What we do not fund**

1. Organisations outside of Coventry
2. Activities not directly working with older people
3. Activities without church or other faith links
4. Organisations with significant reserves greater than unrestricted reserves
5. Campaigning and fundraising activity
6. Activities only open to church or other faith members, or evangelistic activity which is not part of a response to working with older people
7. Renovations and building work, including general repairs and refurbishment, general maintenance to a place of worship

**How to apply**

In order to apply for the Good Neighbours grant, you will need to go through the following process:

1. Email your ideas for an older people’s group to Jess Day-Pollard who will discuss your proposal with you and if applicable will direct you to Ryan Lapworth, who will support you with your Good Neighbours grant application form.
2. Once the application form is complete, you will need to send it back to goodneighbourscoventry@hopecoventry.org.uk and ryan.lapworth@covcofe.org.
3. Your application will then be reviewed at the Good Neighbours steering group (if an application is rejected, we will give you feedback and support you with a re-application)
4. The application will then be taken to the Together For Change board for a final approval.

*We aim to let you know the outcome of your application within 4-6 weeks.*

**Who to contact**

To start the process, all enquires must be sent to goodneighbourscoventry@gmail.com. Either Jessica Day-Pollard or Ryan Lapworth will get back to you.