



Cinnamon Recommended Project



Linking Lives

Linking Lives UK helps local churches tackle loneliness within their communities through home visiting and telephone befriending models mainly supporting older people.

Activity Volunteers make weekly visits or calls for between 30 and 60 minutes. Where possible, they encourage engagement with other community events and activities to improve health and wellbeing.



Time Frames

It takes 2-4 months to set up a befriending project depending on any existing networks with local organisations.

Financial Costs/Contribution

Running costs are relatively nominal if a voluntary coordinator is in place. We recommend, however, employing a coordinator for one day per week initially. Membership of Linking Lives UK is £150 a year.



Community Support

You will receive guidance in building links with key local agencies who then make referrals. It can also be helpful to connect with other specialist organisations who are supporting older people.



Project Support

Linking Lives UK provides training, a coordinator's manual and key documents to help churches establish a project. This includes ongoing support and advice, quarterly coordinator gatherings and annual conferences.

Physical Resources

Volunteers will need to have transport to visit clients in their own homes. A dedicated phone line is also recommended.



Human Resources

You will need to appoint a coordinator to oversee a group of at least five (initially) passionate, organised and friendly volunteers to carry out home visits or regular phone calls.

"As a result of our partnership with Linking Lives, we are at an amazing start point to reach and support isolated older people in our community."
Linking Lives church partner

Replications
Linking Lives has **72** replications across the UK including **44 Telephone befriending services** through 2020

"Thank you so much both of you, giving me so much love and devotion. What would I do if you never had come into my life?" Linking Lives beneficiary.

To start a **Linking Lives** project in your church, visit www.linkinglives.uk