

'Connect Us' will Connect You!

Appendix 4

'Connect Us'



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Why are Connect Us Here?

'Connect Us' looks to reach out to people who may feel they are in a 'grey area'; may be feeling trapped, isolated or invisible. 'Connect Us' focus work to support and improve the wellbeing of people in receipt of ESA/IB. Community connectors..

- Encourage, motivate and support individuals to access local community activities.
- Provide up-to-date information and signposting/referring people to relevant local services in a personalised way that people can understand and trust .
- Support people to build/extend their personal networks and positive relationships in their local communities.
- Support neighbourhood groups to continue what they do and expand and grow if this is the aspiration.

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Since the start of the Project In February 2017, Connect Us have knocked on **25, 857** doors in the Wirral community leading to the following results for Wirral residents:

- Number assisted by Connect Us: **13,359**
- Number registered on the programme: **1215**
- Number registered on ESA/ UC/ Incapacity Benefit: **662**
- **Number registered on ESA/UC/IB in Parliamentary constituency of Birkenhead: 354**
- Number of existing community groups supported: **777**
- Number of new groups established in the community: **33**
- Number of new groups funded through Sparks Fund: **14**
- Number of people signed up moved into volunteering: **150**
- Number of people signed up moving in to further education or training: **121**
- Number of people gone on into employment: **49**

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BIRKENHEAD

The number of individuals signing up with Connect us from the Parliamentary constituency of Birkenhead has sharply risen in January 2018.

80 new community members from Birkenhead signed up to work with Connect Us in January.

64 of these individuals are in receipt of health related benefits.

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TREVOR

*name has been changed

Birkenhead area, ESA, 30+, anxiety, depression, referral from DWP

- Struggling to leave house- feeling socially isolated
- No social networks/family breakdown
- Disclosed alcohol misuse
- Previous trauma
- Issues with finances- fears around benefits
- Feels let down by services/system

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What Trevor has achieved!

- Support to go out for a walk- now doing this regularly and independently
- Accompanied to GP appointment- medication reviewed
- Linked in to groups and services to relating to relationship with Alcohol- reported reduction
- Accessed advice and support with debt and money management
- Attended a number of new groups and community support
- Set goals and gained new interests and hobbies- made new friends!
- Reported marked improvement in wellbeing and quality of life- measured through SWEMWBS

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Wider work connecting Community 'Wezzy Garden'



- Links to key professionals and organisations for support and advice
- Community Organising Training
- Support to set up a constitution
- Good Neighbour Scheme- Good neighbour day
- Community tidy up
- Sourcing materials
- Successful Spark fund application



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'Spark' Funds

A discretionary 'spark' fund is available as a 'kickstart' enabler. This is for small scale but sustainable activities that promote a sense of community development and improves communication and growing networks.

People signed up with Connect Us who have skills, time, energy and ideas they want to share with their community can apply..

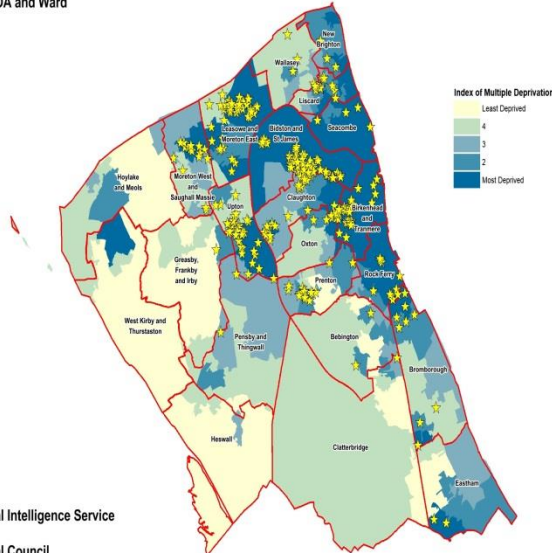
The 'Spark' Fund is designed to support and develop thriving, active and sociable communities where neighbours are friends.

Eligible proposals are initiatives which encourage participation and neighbourliness, wellbeing, healthier past times, community pride, heritage and eco-friendliness. Applications can also be submitted for arts and cultural based ideas.

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Good Neighbour Scheme

Good Neighbour Scheme post code data, January 2018, with IMD 2015 quintiles, by LSOA and Ward



Wirral Intelligence Service
Wirral Council

1000 stickers up so far! **466 of these are in Birkenhead!** The Good Neighbour Scheme is aiming to support a way of re-discovering what it is like to live in a road where people know each other, a place where everyone **feels** valued, even if it's with a simple '**hello**'.

- Feeling connected increases people's health and wellbeing.
- Reduces isolation
- Increases community spirit and togetherness
- Gets people talking and saying 'hello'

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Speak to Us- It's good to talk!

You can send referrals to:

Email: Connectus@involvenorthwest.org.uk

Or alternatively simply give us a call on:

Tel: 0151 644 4516

We endeavour to respond to referrals within 3 working days

Web:

<http://www.involvenorthwest.org.uk/index.php/services/community-connectors-service>

Connect Us
Your Ideas - Your Future - Your Community

involve^{northwest}
involving communities & inspiring change