

Practical Services Scheme

About the Practical Services Scheme

The service provides practical support in the form of painting and decorating in the home.

What services are available?

Painting and decorating services are carried out by a team of volunteers during the months October through to March each year. There is no charge for the labour, however the client must provide the materials.

Who is eligible for the scheme?

The scheme is provided for the elderly and people with a physical disability who require assistance to make home improvements. Services are carried out in South and East Belfast and Castlereagh.

Is there a referral system?

Social workers and other health professionals can refer people to the service and self-referrals are also accepted. Referrals can only be made during the months that the service operates (i.e. October - March inclusive).

Who can I contact for more information or to make a referral?

Please contact the Volunteer Co-ordinator, Robert McGregor.

Email: robert@vsb.org.uk

Tel: 028 9020 0850



VSB
34 Shaftesbury Square
Belfast
BT2 7DB

Phone: 028 9020 0850
Fax: 028 9020 0860
E-mail: info@vsb.org.uk
Web: www.vsb.org.uk

**VSB
Community
Services
provided
for
Belfast
Health &
Social Care
Trust**



VSB Befriending Scheme

About the Befriending Scheme

VSB's befriending scheme aims to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness experienced by people who have limited contact with family, friends or the community.

Regular home visits by volunteers and opportunities to get out and about on social trips can help socially



isolated people reduce feelings of loneliness, low mood and confidence and can help them to live a more independent and fulfilling life.

What services are available?

One-to-one befriending: Volunteer befrienders visit clients in their own home on a regular basis, generally weekly, to provide company and have a chat. Volunteers can also assist with small practical tasks such as reading to someone who is registered blind. This one-to-one support is particularly beneficial for people who are housebound, perhaps due to physical frailty or mobility difficulties.

Trips and Outings: VSB project staff, with the assistance of befriending volunteers, organise social trips and outings for clients throughout the year. VSB have a wheelchair accessible bus and a door-to-door service is provided for clients. Clients are paired with a volunteer for the duration of the trip to ensure their safety and increase confidence levels.

Who is eligible for the scheme?

The scheme is primarily for elderly people who live in South or East Belfast or Castlereagh, and who have limited social contact with others and could benefit from the company of a volunteer befriender to help reduce feelings of isolation.

Although priority is given to the elderly, resources permitting, we can also provide befriending services for socially isolated adults. This might for example be a person who is housebound due to a physical disability.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide befriending support to people who have serious behavioural, learning or mental health problems.

Is there a referral system and how does this work?

Yes, there is a referral process. A referral can be made by a social worker, doctor, or another health professional operating in South and East Belfast or Castlereagh.

Unfortunately we do not accept self-referrals.

A Befriending referral form should be completed for each person. The completed referral form should be signed and returned to:

VSB Befriending Scheme

VSB, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact the Befriending Scheme co-ordinators, Ruth Murray and Victoria O'Neill for more information.

Email: ruth@vsb.org.uk

victoria@vsb.org.uk

Tel: 028 9020 0850

Volunteer Driving Scheme

About the Driving Scheme

The service provides personal transport assistance for elderly people, generally those with mobility difficulties, who are unable to use public transport, can not afford private transport or anyone whose relatives or friends do not have the means to help them.

What services are available?

Volunteer drivers use their own car to provide door-to-door transport to help people attend a range of important health related appointments such as; hospital and medical, dental, occupational therapy and podiatry. Transport is also provided to assist people to attend day care centres and to visit friends and relatives in nursing and residential homes.

Drivers will collect clients and return them home again and if necessary, wait while the client attends their appointment. There is no charge for the driver's time, however mileage costs of 37 pence per mile must be covered by the client.

Who is the scheme suitable for?

The scheme is primarily for older people who live in South or East Belfast or Castlereagh and require assistance with transport.

Unfortunately we are unable to provide transport to people who have serious behavioural, learning or mental health problems.

Is there a referral system and how does this work?

Yes, there is a referral process. A referral can be made by a social worker, doctor or another health professional operating in South or East Belfast or Castlereagh. We do not accept self-referrals.

A driving scheme referral form should be completed for each client and the signed original returned to:

VSB Driving Scheme

VSB, 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast BT2 7DB

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact the Driving Scheme co-ordinators Ruth Murray or Sandra Faulkner.

Email: ruth@vsb.org.uk

sandra@vsb.org.uk

Tel: 028 9020 0850

