

SCCCC News

AUTUMN 2023



When it's time to move on

There comes a time when we may need to move on to a safe place to live as we grow older. This can be a hard decision to make for the older person and their family. Moving from a home that holds precious memories to a strange unknown environment can be a stressful situation.

But have no fear, SCCCC's Placement Support Scheme can help you find the best option when the time is right.

Experienced staff member, Helen Richmond, is heading up the scheme. She offers support through the process and offers guidance when people are looking at moving to Care Homes, Assisted Living, Respite or Independent Living Accommodation. She can safely transport the older person and another family member to the potential new homes, which is extremely important if a person is unable to do this alone.

Helen is there to ask the difficult questions, liaise with the venues, and health professionals and reach a positive outcome for all involved.



Helen says,

“ My service users have told me the service has helped them enormously by giving them options when they really didn't know how they could access those options.

Understandably, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and alone in this process, so I am there to support people emotionally as well as trying to understand the process. I meet people in their home or hospital environment and together we make a plan. I work closely with key professionals involved, such as Housing and Social Care Practitioners. ”



Staff member Amelia
with service user Dorothy

As our thoughts turn to Autumn, we are preparing to gear up for shorter days and darker nights. We say shorter days but to many isolated, lonely people, dark days can seem endless. That is why we are so proud of our incredible befriending volunteers who dedicate thousands of hours a year to support our most isolated communities across Sheffield, spending an hour a week to share a cuppa and a chat.

I am delighted to announce that we have been shortlisted for the Sheffield Business Awards, Equality and Diversity Champion category. This award highlights our commitment to ensuring that we are welcoming and inclusive to all, across our services and in the workplace. I thank our Trustees and staff for making this happen.

Mark Storey, CEO

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www.scccc.co.uk



Helen Richmond - Placement Support Navigator

"My job makes a difference by being a helping hand to older people, in whatever way necessary. For one person it may be helping them view new accommodation on the internet. For another, it may be escorting them for viewings in a care home.



I support people over 65 who need help with changing their homes for one which will meet their needs and hopefully improve their safety and well-being.

What I love about working at SCCC is the diversity of the work. Before my current role, I worked with the Hospital to Home team and on the Good Neighbours Scheme. To say no two days are the same is an understatement! The staff are a complete delight and love what they do. It all makes for a happy atmosphere around the office.

Supporting some lonely older people can be emotionally challenging, especially if they are bereaved and there is no family. Some people understandably question why they are still here when life is a real struggle. These are the times I listen very carefully, so they feel heard and listened to. I try and give them hope things will get easier in some way.

A highlight for me has been meeting such lovely service users. Many are a complete inspiration in how they are living their lives in older age. It is not unusual to meet people well into their 90's who push themselves to get the best out of their remaining years. I hope I am one of those people in the future!"

Did you know?

Our Hospital to Home team can assist with escort to appointments?



Our Good Neighbour Scheme befriending service also has a telephone support service.

Our pen pal scheme has received over 7,000 pieces of correspondence since its launch in March 2020.



Our Winter Pressures service vehicle can collect health professionals and service users who need to get to urgent appointments in adverse weather conditions.

We can provide single bedding for a patient who needs a hospital bed at home.



We fit key safes at people's homes if they are struggling to get to the door after a stay in hospital.

We can feed pets whilst an older person is in hospital short term.



We have nearly 200 befriending volunteers who visit older people on a regular basis to help prevent loneliness.

Host an S4CTea and help combat loneliness one cuppa at a time.

At SCCCC we know how important conversation is to our health and wellbeing. To celebrate International Day of Older People, we are asking supporters to hold an #S4CTea. Supporter Leisa hosted her tea party with family and friends, it was the perfect excuse to catch up over a cuppa.

If you would like to host an S4C Tea email Kimberley.france@scccc.co.uk



Winning collaboration on a mission to change the culture around Menopause

SCCCC joined forces with the NHS to spread awareness about menopause by hosting events and sharing knowledge. As a result, the team won the NHS Employers Award for Wellbeing. Our EDI lead practitioner, Loma Jones, was delighted to go along to the awards ceremony and receive the award on our behalf.



Good Neighbours Scheme staff announcements

This autumn we say bon voyage to GNS Coordinator, Julia Thompson, who is retiring to spend more time with her grandchildren. But it's not goodbye, as she is now a fully-fledged befriending volunteer on the scheme.

We also say congratulations to Karen Pottinger, GNS Coordinator who has been working for us for 20 years, over the years she worked on our Hospital to Home Scheme before joining GNS.

Thank you to them both for their commitment, compassion and care over the years.



Call for more volunteers as waiting list grows.

Can you spare an hour a week to visit or telephone an older person in your community?

We currently have a waiting list of older people who would love to have a cuppa and a chat with a friendly face.

Please email volunteer@scccc.co.uk

100 club charity lottery

For just £12 per year you could be in with winning a monthly cash prize, with 50% of the monthly total going to the charity, 40% to the winner and 10% rolling over for a large December pot. Its win, win for everyone! Scan the QR code to sign up online today.



GET INVOLVED...

Volunteers are the heart of our charity. We have a number of different volunteering roles here at SCCCC.

Good Neighbour friendly visitor – become a befriending volunteer, visit an isolated older person in their own home for a cuppa and a chat on a regular basis.

Telephone Support – speak to an isolated older person on the telephone on a regular basis.

Pen pal Scheme – Write letters or send in cards to our service users to help them stay socially connected and bring a smile to their faces.

Hospital to Home – Does your employer offer you volunteering hours? Why not spend them with us, working alongside our friendly staff?

Event support – Come along and spend a few hours assisting our Volunteer Recruitment and Fundraising teams at Community and challenge events.

Do you have a skill that could support our work? Become a Trustee and be part of an award-winning charity. If you can help contact volunteer@scccc.co.uk



LETTERS

Dear SCCCC

Thank you for your cards and kind thoughts. I really do appreciate them. Also thank you for sending me Claire and Winnie, it's really good to talk.

Best wishes

Pat

Good Neighbours Scheme/Pen pal service user.

What are your thoughts about SCCCC? Share them with us.

Email: mail@scccc.co.uk

Make a donation today to help SCCCC to maintain the level of care that all of our friends and families deserve. Your donation will go a long way to improving the level of care in our communities.

£5 can pay for an emergency food parcel to be delivered to an older person's home who has just been discharged from hospital and has no support.

£10 can help provide emergency practical support for an older person in need.

£20 can support a fully trained friendly visitor to visit an older person at home - helping to reduce isolation and preventing ill health which can result in hospital re-admission.



If you would like to make a donation please complete the following slip and return it to us with your donation to: Unit 19, President Buildings, Savile Street East, Sheffield, S4 7UQ.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I would like to make a donation of £ _____
to Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care.

Date: _____

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Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Tick to apply

Please make cheques payable to: SCCCC. Do not send cash. Or visit our website: www.scccc.co.uk and donate online.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England: 1168077