



Whetstone Good Neighbour Scheme

7th Annual Report covering period 1st August 2022 to 31st July 2023

In our 7th year of operation our volunteers have worked extremely hard, and I am happy to report that the scheme is continuing to be a great success.

Achievement

The Whetstone Good Neighbour Scheme is very proud of Christine Carroll who was the volunteer of the year award runner up with Blaby District Council.

Over the past year, our volunteers have completed 1,927 jobs for over 95 service users. As a scheme we have provided transport to appointments, lunch clubs, shopping and social events. This support provides a lifeline for so many people and helps them to remain independent and continue to enjoy good health and mental wellbeing.

We have continued our befriending either via telephone or in person, and this is gratefully received by our service users.

The Friday chip run continues to be successful. Service users can order from a discounted menu at Whetstone Fish Bar and the food is delivered by volunteers.

Events Held

The Christmas Party was held at the Whetstone Parish Council Offices in the Edward Wright room, where a Christmas tea and entertainment were enjoyed by all who attended.

Christmas gift bags were presented to all of the service users.

This year WGNS had a Christmas tree at the Christmas tree event, held at Whetstone Church. People could remember their loved ones by writing their names on a bauble and placing it on the tree, decorated by Christine Carroll.

At Easter our service users received eggs and a card signed by all of our volunteers.

The event at The Lime Tree was supported by a grant from BDC and used to bring service users and volunteers together, reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation. New friendships were formed, and lots of chatter and laughter was heard throughout the restaurant.

From the kind donation received from the family of Audrey Blick, a cream tea was delivered to all service users to be enjoyed in Audrey's memory.

All of these events go a long way in helping the community support each other.



Growth

In 7 years of operation the number of volunteers remains consistent, and the number of service users has remained the same.

The team continue to work diligently and safely to develop the services we offer in line with the needs of the community. Befriending work remains a life line to residents, taking away the feeling of isolation in everyday life.

We continue to be recognised by our service users and other organisations as a key service provider to our community and remain a valuable asset.

Financial Stability

WGNS remains financially sound for the upcoming 12 months, with the aid of donations from our service users, we are able to keep up the day to day services of the scheme.

The Love Blaby Lottery contributions provide a regular source of income for the scheme, and events such as the Christmas Party and the annual get together are all made possible with the support of Blaby District Council, and the ASDA Foundation who provide the grants for these events.

Thank you

Thank you to the volunteers who have put in so much time and effort, with no financial gain, sacrificing time with your own families to help our scheme members, you are inspirational.

A huge thank you to Jenny Hilton for all your hard work, Jenny has given up so much of her time to Whetstone Good Neighbours, her roles include call co-ordinator, volunteer, befriender, form filler and so much more. Well done Jenny!

Thank you to Christine Carroll, for the cream teas, sorting out the decorations etc for the Christmas tree event, and all your hard work with the Christmas party, and not least for nominating Whetstone Good Neighbour scheme to be the recipient of the award of £500.

Thank you to the Management team who have worked hard behind the scenes, providing the much needed support.

A special thank you to Pritz at Whetstone Fish Bar, and to the Lime Tree where we hold our yearly event to bring the members together.

Thanks to all of our service users who have given donations to our scheme either by participating in the Love Blaby Lottery or otherwise, including one particular service user who made a generous donation.

Thank you to Whetstone Parish Council for the use of your rooms, and including our news articles in the Duck Paddle news.

And finally Blaby District Council, Love Blaby Lottery and ASDA Foundation, (Debbie Kenney).



The Future

The future of the Whetstone Good Neighbour Scheme looks bright for the next 12 months. We look forward to helping people get the right help when it is needed, bringing people together, helping each other, promoting good mental health and wellbeing and making this a wonderful community.

Just being there for each other makes such a difference.

All this is only made possible by the volunteers who put in their time and effort to make a difference within the community.

Thank you everyone

Louise Hathaway
WGNS Chairman