

Telephone Buddying Scheme – Age Concern, Dudley

The Telephone Buddying scheme is an initiative in Dudley which is lead by Age Concern. The aims of this initiative are to link up older housebound people (who are traditionally an excluded group) so that they can offer each other friendship, regular contact and emotional support over the telephone in their own homes. It is hoped that the scheme has helped to reduce isolation and loneliness often felt by older people living alone. The ability to contact and be contacted will promote an increased sense of well being and social inclusion. The Telephone Buddy Scheme aims to match, following a prior personal visit and needs assessment, individuals with similar interests or hobbies, and to encourage contact through reciprocal telephone calls, perhaps initially on a weekly basis and thereafter as the 'telephone buddies' agree between each other. The project is to be kept simple, and aimed to offer low level support.