

Local Area Co-ordination in Leicestershire



Some examples of what has already happened.

- LAC organised collaborative partnership between The Lawns Care Home and residents that are sociable and want to be able to leave their homes, but for health reasons are not able to do so without support. I have connected with the Activities Organiser at The Lawns and sourced a volunteer driver for their minibus to be able to collect four residents, twice a month to be taken to the Seniors Club at The Lawns so they can be involved with their organised activities.
- I have connected with community groups, so residents are more informed about what is going on in their community – updating local library resources with the new *Oadby Community Groups and Activities* information, this information had been requested by residents during the Oadby Residents Forum.



- **Helped to establish a gaming group for young people with MH issues – now resident run and 14 residents attend.**
- This was initiated as the LAC was receiving many introductions for people who were struggling with social interactions and their main way of connecting with others was online through gaming forums.
- With consent, the LAC introduced a small number of people to each other to see if there were common solutions to what their barriers were and to find solutions.
 - Using their connections in community, the LAC approached a local community centre to see if they could use a space there to trial a gaming group.
- Using consoles weekly sessions weekly organised to invite people to continue gaming but in a safe space with others who have similar barriers to connecting.
- The group has now organically evolved into one that is led by the group members, has received local funding to purchase new consoles. Group members are growing in confidence and are being supported to be a constituted group to enable access to larger funds if that is appropriate.
 - Those original members offer a support network and encouraging words to new members and will meet outside of groups now on a regular basis.



Oak Court - Access to affordable clothing

LAC was approached to see if I was able to assist with a situation with an Extra Care Facility in Blaby. Residents at the extra Care facility just outside Blaby Village were finding it difficult to access clothing. They had previously had bigger companies in for one off event to enable residents to buy clothing, but they were quite unaffordable for most of the residents. A lot of the residents in Oak court have mobility issues so leaving the building to access clothing is a barrier.

The LAC spoke to the local charity shops based in Blaby to ask if they were able to offer any way of the Oak Court residents of accessing charity shop clothing. Two of them came forward and offered to deliver a selection of clothing as well as a rail for the residents to buy or to donate money for the clothing. This now happens on a regular basis which has solved an issue for the residents as well as supporting local charities. It has also provided an opportunity for some of the residents to take responsibility in organising the clothes and taking the money for the items. As well as this it has formed a connection with local charities which has the potential for the relationship to grow and develop.



Oak court / Thistly Meadow – Intergenerational project

A relationship with both Oak Court and Thistly meadow developed, and the LAC received introductions for residents who are connected with both. As a team we were made aware of the amazing work that the 'intergenerational project' delivered in Burbage. Learning from this was considered and shared to explore whether this would be of interest to Oak Court (who provide an extra Care facility to older and more vulnerable adults) and a primary school where I have built a relationship with the SENCO.

After discussing the project with both establishments, they were both keen to pursue. I attended the first introductory meeting where both parties shared some ideas about how they could start to form a relationship connecting older and sometimes disabled adults with younger children. They talked about starting by sending postcards and letters to each other and went on to discuss inviting the residents to the school for performances.



Holmes Court / Culture to you

Culture to you is a fairly new project ran by Leicestershire County Council with funding awarded by the Arts Council. It aims to connect Art works, museum pieces and reminiscence boxes to communities and individuals. As a team we have connected with this project as one of the areas it is being offered in. We were asked if we knew of any care homes that might be interested in being part of this . I was able to identify and connect the team to Holmes court.

Should you require any further information and a follow up conversation, please contact;

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Public Health



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