

**FALKIRK AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH
REFERRAL FORM FOR VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDER**

We would obviously hope to be able to establish a successful befriending for your client. To enable us to make the best match would you please complete this form in as much detail as possible. Information and guidance is available at the end of the form.

Please keep in mind that volunteers work alone. If you have any concerns about the suitability of your client, please contact the befriending scheme.

1. Referrer

Name:

Designation:

Address:

Contact Telephone No:

Email:

2. Befriender

Name:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Telephone No:

Email:

3. Befriender

History and relevant details (Including family circumstances, health etc)

4. Befriender

Preferred qualities of volunteer (age, attitude and abilities)

Which time / days would most suit your client?

5. Emergency Contacts

Relationship to befriender:	General Practitioner:
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Telephone No:	Telephone No:

6. Any additional information (any particular areas of concern)

Date of Application:	Agreed and signed _____
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Please return this form to:

Stuart Aitken
Falkirk & District Association for Mental Health
Victoria Centre
173 Victoria Road
Falkirk FK2 7AU
Phone: 01324 671600 / Direct Dial 671610 or 671611
E mail: stuart.aitken@fdamh.org.uk
margaret.inglis@fdamh.org.uk

This information will remain completely confidential to FDAMH and will not be passed to any third party.

Falkirk and District Association for Mental Health
Befriending Scheme
Information and Guidelines for Referrers

Aim of Befriending

The aim of the project is to reduce the isolation experienced by people with long term mental – health problems, living in the community, by matching them with a trained volunteer. Befriending relationships normally last for one year.

Befriending Volunteers

All befriending volunteers are over 18 years of age, have provided two references and undergone Disclosure Scotland at enhanced level. They must also have successfully completed a training programme which prepares them for the befriending role. Volunteer befrienders agree to provide a confidential service and will be requested to resign from volunteering with FDAMH if they break confidentiality. Volunteers are asked to commit to the scheme for a minimum of one year.

Befriending Role

Volunteer befrienders will meet clients once a week or fortnight. The primary aim of this scheme is for befriender and befriender to participate in community based activities.

Criteria for Referral to Befriending Scheme

The Befriending Scheme offers support to people between 18 and 64 years of age, living in the community within Falkirk District, who are experiencing or recovering from a mental health problem. FDAMH is happy to provide volunteer input to clients with physical disabilities. However volunteers cannot be held responsible for the safety of clients who are not physically independent. Clients who are referred to the scheme should be able to get themselves to and from a community location and should not be dependent on physical assistance from the volunteer whilst out. This is due to limitations in volunteer training and recruitment strategies which focus specifically on mental health/illness and do not incorporate guidance re physical problems.

FDAMH has a responsibility to prevent exploitation or abuse of both clients and volunteers. As befriending team staff receive only limited information on clients referred to the service it is essential that referrers consider the safety and wellbeing of both clients and volunteers when making their referral. If referrers are in any doubt about their client's appropriateness for this service they may discuss this with a befriending team staff member before making a referral.

Due to demand for the service, it is requested that people who have had a befriender are not referred within a year of their previous befriending ending.