



## **REFERRAL CRITERIA: How and Who We Can Help**

**Engage With Age** supports the active involvement of older people in local communities in South & East Belfast & Castlereagh.

The organisation aims to address social isolation and loneliness, through supporting local groups, sharing community information & encouraging people over 50 years old to take part in local activities.

**Opportunities on offer** in local neighbourhoods include:

- Lunch Clubs
- Older People's Groups
- Church Senior Citizens' Fellowships
- Courses e.g. computers, health issues
- Projects e.g. storytelling, local history, arts & crafts
- One-off outings & events e.g. bus / boat trips

**Individual older people may be referred** for the following reasons:

- Social isolation: the person is experiencing a degree of loneliness
- Community / family support: the person has limited contact or support
- Access: the person cannot access local social activities and events

**Some of these referrals may be to local groups, therefore referrals may not always be possible if:**

1. The group would not be able to deal with the person's particular disabilities
2. The person has a severe mental health problem
3. There are concerns about degrees of confusion
4. The person has an alcohol or substance abuse problem
5. There are concerns about existing group members / leader's physical and emotional safety

**Engage With Age will**

- Accept referrals on the basis that the referring officer provides ongoing support to those who need it
- Offer the person up to 3 opportunities for introduction to local activities, and regular information on what is available

**For further information please contact:**

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Referral forms can be completed online [www.engagewithage.org.uk](http://www.engagewithage.org.uk)