

Grow Social Engagement In Your Community With The Friendly Bench

At The Friendly Bench, we believe in the power of connection.

Our purpose is to bring people together, to reduce loneliness and to boost wellbeing. Our specially designed outdoor seating spaces are not just benches, but meeting points and social hubs, hosting regular activities and events for people of all ages and abilities.

And our results show that by providing the right opportunities, we are helping people to forge friendships, feel valued and become more connected to their communities.

How does The Friendly Bench work?

The Friendly Bench combines a bespoke, safe and accessible outdoor seating space with organised, regular community-led meet-up activities for local people to attend. We offer two versions of our scheme, to suit the community space you have available:



a) the full installation:

A substantial, bespoke outdoor seating area with planters, installed in your agreed public outdoor space. Your installation is fully supported with comprehensive, ongoing advice, guidance and practical help – from location choice and maintaining your bench, to guidance on how to plan and run the activity programme.

b) the pop-up scheme:

If you already have a suitable outdoor meeting area in your community, and you don't need the full installation, then the pop-up scheme will be ideal. The pop-up scheme features free branded marketing resources to help you define and promote your chosen The Friendly Bench location and activities, plus full organisational support to get you up and running and access to ongoing advice and guidance.

Whichever scheme you choose, our dedicated Friendly Bench team is ready to help organisers breathe life into your new social space. We will provide direct support, guidance and personalised advice on how to fund, plan, market and organise your The Friendly Bench and regular activities. Organisers also benefit from access to peer support and knowledge exchange through The Friendly Bench Members Network and learning programmes to

enhance skills and build a network of like-minded individuals dedicated to community growth.

How to maximise The Friendly Bench impact

We can help community focused organisations to inspire and engage more groups and individuals by co-ordinating The Friendly Bench in your area. You can achieve this by:

- directly funding The Friendly Bench in your area, and managing the groups and activities with The Friendly Bench team support or
- steering your active groups and organisers towards The Friendly Bench team and we can help them set up and run their own The Friendly Bench initiative.

Making a difference across the country

Already 15 groups have joined The Friendly Bench Network across England, from Chester to Cornwall - and communities are telling us what a difference The Friendly Bench is making to their local area.

Get in touch for further information:

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