

Side-by-Side Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment carried out by:

Date:

Side-by-Side involves one-to-one sessions between an adult befriender and a young person. This Risk Assessment covers “walk and talk” where the young people will undertake a short walk with the befriender.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS?	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED?	HOW MIGHT THEY BE HARMED?	MITIGATION
GENERAL RISKS			
Lack of transparency	Befriender Young person	Lack of transparency could lead to exclusive and inappropriate relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Parental permission will be required. · All parties will enter into the arrangement in full knowledge of what it entails. · A walk report will be made after each session showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The date, time and route of the walk o Summary of key points o Notes of any concerns · Walk reports will be submitted to the Co-ordinator on a monthly basis. · Walks will be on designated routes in public places. · Start/end times agreed with parent.
Relationship dependency	Befriender Young person	A dependent relationship could be formed on behalf of the young person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Walk and talk will initially be for a short-term – initially for 6 weeks with a review after 3 weeks. The option to continue beyond 6 weeks will be discussed with all parties. · Frequent reviews of the relationship will be undertaken by the Co-ordinator.
Emotional upset	Young person	The relationship may prompt the young person to open up and talk about things that are emotionally upsetting to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Individual walk and talk will be short (30-45 minutes) to limit intensity. · Confidentiality will be maintained unless the befriender believes the young person is in danger or is a danger to others and an appropriate report will be presented to the Side-by-Side Co-ordinator. · The befriender will not push the young person to talk about anything that makes him/her (young person) feel upset. · Befriender will acknowledge if a young person is upset and seek to offer appropriate comfort.

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Inappropriate advice/action	Befriender Young person	Mental or physical harm caused by the befriender overstepping boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Befrienders will aim to facilitate the young people to reach their own conclusions rather than tell them what to do. • Befriender will maintain appropriate boundaries and not stray into the realms of professional advice. • Befriender will signpost to other, appropriate, source of help.
COVID RISKS			
Transmission by known or possible carriers of the virus	Befriender Young person	COVID-19 virus may be caught by proximity to people who are known to be infected or may possibly be infected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone who has COVID symptoms or tested positive within the last 10 days should not attend the session. • Anyone who lives with (or are in a support bubble with) someone who has symptoms or has tested positive in the last 14 days should not attend the session.
Transmission of viral load through air	Befriender Young person	COVID-19 virus could be caught by transmission through air as people speak and breathe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walks take place outside in the open air where transmission is less likely. • Walks will be restricted to 2 people, crowds will be avoided. • Social distancing will be maintained wherever possible, but it is recognised that 2m will not always be possible due to path width and the need to converse. • No raised voices to be used in session.
Transmission of viral load through contact	Befriender Young person	COVID-19 virus could be caught by transmission through contact with surfaces and objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited contact with objects expected but befriender and young person should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sanitise hands before and after the walk o Avoid touching objects or face in between

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WALKING RISKS			
Dogs	Befriender Young person	Physical injury caused by bites from dogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Do not assume a dog is friendly. · Do not try to pat a dog, even if it is on a lead with its owner. · Walk away calmly. · In the event of injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assess level of injury o End walk and return early if necessary o Phone ambulance if necessary then phone contact point
Traffic	Befriender Young person	Physical injury caused by being struck by a vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Befriender to walk next to any road with young person inside. · Follow the prescribed route. · Cross all roads using zebra crossings and islands wherever possible. · Wear hi viz in low light. · In the event of injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assess level of injury o End walk and return early if necessary o Phone ambulance if necessary then phone contact point
Physical abuse	Befriender Young person	Possible physical abuse by others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Avoid large groups. · De-escalate, avoid potential inflammatory comments. · Stay together and walk away calmly. · Call police as soon as able, 999 if in immediate danger otherwise 101. · In the event of injury: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assess level of injury o End walk and return early if necessary o Phone ambulance if necessary then phone contact point
Misconception by members of the public	Befriender	Being mistaken for inappropriate behaviour with a child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Befriender to carry ID to show who they are. · Let the other person phone the contact point to establish legitimacy of the befriender.

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WALKING RISKS			
Lack of visibility	Befriender Young person	Lack of visibility could lead to inappropriate behaviour or accusations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow the prescribed route. In areas where there is no, or little, public visibility walk in single file and move through as quickly as possible.
Weather	Befriender Young person	Injury could be caused by falling or blown objects in high winds or by being struck by lightning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will be dressed appropriately for the weather. If high winds or thunderstorms are forecast, then session will be re-arranged.

Annex A

LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR BEFRIENDER TO TAKE ON A WALK AND TALK SESSION	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ID badge – to be worn and visible Charged mobile phone Contact number to be called if required Hi Viz clothing (if low light is expected) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Torch (if low light is expected) Route descriptions Pen and notepad (in case you need to make a note of anything) Hand sanitiser/face covering as required

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Annex B

PLEASE ADD DETAILS OF YOUR WALKING ROUTES HERE.