

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND - SHETLAND BEFRIENDING SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

Voluntary Action Shetland (formally Shetland Council of Social Service) had been researching into the potential of a Befriending Scheme in Shetland since November 1998 as need for such a service became apparent through the Shetland Children's Panel. A Project Co-ordinator was appointed in June 2000 to develop the service, manage the scheme, its volunteers and the day to day running of the project and the aim was to recruit people who were able to build a relationship with a young person whom would benefit greatly from having a positive stable friendship with an independent adult.

The success of the young person's scheme prompted expansion over the years whereby the service is now offering befriending services to children, young people, adults and older members of the Shetland community from those aged 7 years with no upper age limit.

The service has 3 sections of service, they are:

- Children and Young People aged 7 to 15 years
- 16+ years adults
- Adults affected by Dementia

The principles and aims of the project are similar in all four sections of the scheme and staff are aware that the issues and circumstances affecting children and young people will be different to those affecting the 16+ adults.

This document outlines the policies and procedures for the overall scheme. Where there are distinct differences between the four sections in terms of policies and procedures, these have been highlighted in blue in the contents page.

For clarification purposes,

The Children and Young People aged 7 to 15 years will be referred to as "young person"

The group aged 16+ and those affected by dementia will be referred to as "adults".

The term "service user" will be used to relate to all age groups.