

Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership



Aim of organisation:

The Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership (MEAAP) aims to improve the lives of older people across the Ballymena, Larne & Carrickfergus area, especially those who are particularly vulnerable, using a partnership approach. We have been delivering a wide range of projects since our flagship Big Lottery Funded Ageing Well & Reaching Out Programme in July 2013; Age NI/NHSCT Community Navigator Project; IMPACTAgewell®, Peace IV Peacing Ages Together Programme and COVID-19 “Neighbourhood in Need” Scheme to name a few. We have a track record of engaging with over 120 older people groups, 90 statutory agencies/larger charities and 200+ registered volunteers to provide person centred support to older people 60 years & over across Mid & East Antrim.

Social Challenge

With the Global pandemic many community groups and organisations have utilised technology as a tool to reach older people in their own home so as to reduce social isolation and increase access to essential services. However some Older People struggle to engage with digital technology for a variety of barriers such as no social network to set up and teach them how to use digital devices. Prior to COVID-19 digital technology could be setup via home visits and face to face workshops however now with social distancing and shielding this is not possible. Other barriers include mobility and visual impairments or fear of navigating new technology, scams, and login details. This lack of access to technology and social exclusion significantly heightens inequalities for so many Older People in all different ways. It is vital that those who struggle to get support to use technology or get online are not left behind especially within these uncertain times. Therefore, our challenge is how can we connect isolated, vulnerable Older People ,who are facing barriers to digital inclusion, virtually to their local community services

Techie Support Sought:

Seeking to develop a digital inclusion solution/tool to support community groups provide digital services via remote access to vulnerable and isolated older people unable to become virtually connected.

