

National Grid funds pilot to keep vulnerable people safe

£10,000 donated to help set up ten new community groups to keep vulnerable people safe.

20 Jul 2018

- **£10,000 funding to support the most vulnerable people with community safety**
- **10 new groups and activities to bring together most isolated**
- **Data from the pilot to confirm the need for the services**

Age UK Bamsley secured funding from the National Grid community grant programme for a yearlong pilot, to help bring the elderly and most vulnerable together, to stop them feeling isolated and to keep them safe and warm.

Age UK Bamsley will consult with communities and service providers, including GPs, hairdressers and pharmacies to identify isolated older people, and set up activities to bring them together.

The pilot project will result in 10 new regular groups in Cudworth and Wombwell, in Bamsley.

Four events will be held to look at issues such as keeping warm, avoiding scams and managing personal finances. The pilot is expected to provide one to one support to 100 older people and signpost many more to existing activities.

Steve Knight-Gregson, National Grid's Regional External Affairs Manager, said: "While we're refurbishing our overhead line, keeping homes and businesses in the area safely and securely supplied with electricity, we're delighted to support this initiative for more vulnerable members of the community."

Jane Holliday, CEO of Age UK Barnsley, said: "We are delighted with the generous donation. The community grant will enable us to build on the work we are doing and provide evidence to the local council, to fund a longer-term solution."

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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