

Join Age UK Norwich for 'The Big Chinwag'

On the 19th June, schools around the country will be joining in the mother of all natters and Age UK Norwich is encouraging local schools to support this fun event and help raise awareness and vital funds to help combat loneliness in later life.

There are over 8,000 older people in Norwich who live alone, over half of whom are affected by a long-term health problem. Nationally, nearly three million older people feel they have no-one to turn to for help and support and as a result many of them feel lonely or forgotten.

How can schools help? In essence, for a small donation such as £1 – everyone gets free time to have a chinwag. This can be simply a social chat in the staff room or Age UK have developed some ideas about how this can become a constructive part of the school day, for example – it could be based on a curriculum theme highlighting the importance of listening, a quiz on getting to know each other better or simply children talking to each other about what loneliness means to them.

We've produced an assembly presentation template which will help children understand the impact of loneliness and how Age UK helps to combat it in later life. Maybe ask children to write a short story about an older relative or friend or even have a 'bring your grandparent to school for a natter' day.

It doesn't have to be long and if you team it up with a non-school uniform day or a bake sale, there's an added incentive to donate. There are stacks of resources to help schools get involved and can be downloaded at www.ageuknorwich.org.uk

By holding a Big Chinwag, your support will help Age UK Norwich to continue to provide companionship, advice and support for anyone who needs them. If you'd like more information on this event or developing an intergenerational project, please contact helen.burgess@ageuknorwich.org.uk



THE BIG



CHINWAG