

Response from Jenny Bimpson from the Chatty Café Scheme received 29 June 2020 via email:

Hi Lori

Thank you for your email. The Chatty Café would very much like to assist the people of Oldham by helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation in as many venues as possible. As the scheme was created in Oldham, it's very important to us that we are a familiar concept in the town.

Do let me know what you need from us going forward.

Please also note that whilst venues have been closed, the scheme started Virtual Chatty Cafes – on line Zoom chats for up to 12 people, 3 times a week. Anyone that wishes be to added, simply emails myself for the Zoom Meeting ID.

In addition we are also offering 1 to 1 calls, every week at the same time, to people that do not have access to technology. NHS link works refer people across the UK to us. Many of the people we talk to have no friends or family, do not know their neighbours, have no garden or balcony and are suffering from increased social isolation and loneliness. Some of them have told us we are the only people they speak to in a week.

One of our hopes is that we can encourage some members of our local community in calling some of these people from around the UK, which in turn will help them feel connected and reduce their own feelings of isolation.

Finally can I mention that the scheme has recently been invited by Government to become one of 40 members to be involved in the Tackling Loneliness Network.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Kind regards

Jenny Bimpson