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# BUDDY SCHEME

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**Welcoming and supporting  
people new to Walsall**

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**Part of Walsall Welcome Pack**



# WHAT IS THE BUDDY SCHEME?

- A peer to peer support scheme coordinated by Nash Dom, which supports newly arrived residents to settle in Walsall and lead a fulfilling life.

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- The buddy scheme matches established residents (volunteer buddy) with new residents according to their needs, interests and language skills. The volunteer buddy will meet up with their matched buddies for at least one hour a week.

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- Volunteer buddies will be trained and ready to support new residents with tips and useful information about living in Walsall.

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- **Covid-19** - In the context of Covid-19 Buddies can carry out their support meeting online via most suitable method e.g. WhatsApp, Skype, Facebook,

# HOW DOES THE SCHEME WORK?

1. Signing up to the scheme by filling in the application form that can be found under this link:  
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SHEJZZ/>
2. Confirmation email that you are signed up to the scheme and information about the next steps
3. Initial training and guidance for buddy volunteers
4. Introduction event for everyone signed up to the scheme (Considering Covid-19 this may happen online via e.g. WhatsApp, Skype, Facebook)
5. Matching - the buddy volunteers will be paired with new residents. You will receive an email informing you of who you are matched with and their contacts.
6. Making connection - the buddy volunteers will contact their buddy (new residents) to agree on their first meeting.
7. Meet up at least once a week for an hour: in person respecting Covid-19 safety guidelines or online (at your convenience). Buddy scheme coordinator will inform you continuously about social events and activities that you could join
8. Join activities and events offered by Nash Dom and its partners.
9. Step out the buddy scheme, collecting feedback

# WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY BUDDY ?

The scheme is designed to be very informal and flexible.

The aim of your joint activities are:

- **To see how your buddy is** (check how their wellbeing is)
- **To Assist your buddy to feel welcomed in Walsall** (e.g introducing them to different places of interest around Walsall, local facilities like transport, shops, schools etc.)
- **To Help your buddy to gain access to support** (e.g. Signpost to relevant local services, accompany them if needed, fill in an applications)
- **To Enable your buddy to enjoy living in Walsall** (e.g. attend local events, activities and places of interest together, signpost to online entrainment and activities, help them find positive ways of spending their time)
- **To support your buddy to integrate into local community** (help them find potential groups or places of similar interests, meet new people, extend their social network)
- **To Provide buddies with opportunity to practice English**
- **To help your buddy understand the government guidance and rules around Covid-19**

# WE WILL PROVIDE:

- Incentives for buddy volunteers (shopping vouchers)
- Welcoming team
- Learning and training
- Access to diverse range of opportunities
- Safe and friendly space
- Sense of belonging
- Recognition Certificate

# HOW DO I APPLY TO THE BUDDY SCHEME?

If you would like to become a buddy volunteer or want to be matched with a buddy, please use Nash Dom form to apply under this link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/SHEJZZ/>

If you need support with the application or any more information about this scheme please contact:

Marcin Maciejewski

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Nash Dom and its partners will continuously inform all volunteers and buddies about latest government guidelines regarding Covid-19 and make sure activities carried out are in compliance with Covid-19 guidelines.

**NASH DOM COMMUNITY HUB, Walsall, Sun Street, WS1 4AL**

