

Nottingham Circle CIC

Nottingham Circle will be the first 'Circle' outside of the South East, and the first Midlands city to develop a model that the Department of Health has recognised as the future of social care and one of the best examples in the UK of strengthening communities.¹

A Nottingham Circle will be a membership organisation, open to anyone over the age of 50, which connects members to each other to share interests and enjoy life. It also connects members to local, skilled people called Neighbourhood Helpers, who provide flexible help with things like DIY tasks, gardening or internet lessons. Circle helps members stay socially connected by facilitating interactions and allows people to be 'each other's solution' by leveraging the skills and resources in the local community. After a soft launch period during the Autumn, where local residents will have the opportunity to shape all activities and offerings of Nottingham Circle, it will officially launch early in the New Year. It is a Community Interest Company that will be developing a membership circle for older people in Nottingham over the next few years. The Nottingham Circle will provide help, support and activities to older people by linking them with a team of paid and volunteer helpers.

How the Nottingham Circle works:

1. Members join by paying a small annual fee and personalise activities to suit their lives.
2. Members pay a small amount for support, services, and some activities or outings.
3. A wide range of practical support can be provided thanks to vetted, local people called Neighbourhood Helpers. They may be paid or unpaid, when they choose to be paid it will be at an hourly rate in accordance with living wage. Volunteers may receive a small payment for their work.
4. The Circle acts as a hub to connect members who need the particular practical help or support with those that can provide it and provides the service of co-ordinating the work.
5. The Circle acts as a platform for a wide range of social activities and outings, connecting members to the best of Nottingham and introducing them to other members. It offers bespoke services to less mobile members such as telephone discussion groups.

How will the Nottingham Circle benefit Nottingham?

Nottingham City Council is investing £700,000 in this development over the next three years. It is anticipated that the cost savings will amount to £2 saved for every £1 invested over the first three years, and £5 saved for every £1 over the first five years. It will be a Community Interest Company (CIC), with any profits re-invested in the community.

The Circle model supports prevention, develops community capacity and enhances social capital. Its social impact measurement framework has been championed by experts in the field as one of the most robust and innovative in the UK. It is envisaged that the Circle will grow to a membership of approximately 3,000 members, and become self-sustainable before the end of its third year, thus requiring no further grant funding.

For more information on Nottingham Circle, please contact Helen Jones, Director for Adult Assessment on 0115 8763504 helen.jones@nottinghamcity.gov.uk or Nick Orders, Commissioning Officer on 0115 8764116 nick.orders@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

To find out about the Circle in Southwark visit <http://www.southwarkcircle.org.uk>.

¹ Department of Health, 'A Vision for Adult Social Care' – November 2010