



**DATE: 7 October 2020**

**Changes to Amigo – volunteer buddying project provided by Voluntary Support North Surrey**

Amigo, launched in June 2017 by Voluntary Support North Surrey and funded by Catalyst, has been providing volunteer buddying support for people with mental ill health in Runnymede, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, West Elmbridge and Woking as part of Community Connections.

The impact and ongoing nature of COVID-19 has resulted in a need to re-examine the assistance provided by Amigo. The existing model of integrating clients into the community with the assistance of volunteers has been challenging in the face of lockdown and continued social distancing. We now have an opportunity to reconsider how best to help people with poor mental health re-integrate into activities and the wider community during this time.

After consultation, Catalyst Community Connections will work directly with people to support their mental health and wellbeing in the North West Surrey area. Current Amigo clients can access support from Catalyst who currently offer 1-1 telephone support and some groups and activities online:

Central number 01483 590150  
Surrey Heath 01483 415950  
North West Surrey 01784 440378

**END**

[www.voluntarysupport.org.uk](http://www.voluntarysupport.org.uk)

**For more information regarding Catalyst Community Connections, please contact:**

**Catalyst Community Connections North West: 01784 440378 / SMS Text 07919 541424**

[www.catalystsupport.org.uk](http://www.catalystsupport.org.uk)

[www.communityconnectionsurrey.com](http://www.communityconnectionsurrey.com)

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