



## Guidelines for Referral Agencies

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The Countrymen's Club is a pilot project designed *to tackle the specific challenges facing older men from rural communities*. This is likely to include issues relating to rural isolation, feelings of disconnection as well as poor access to services. The project offers combinations of animal-assisted activities, therapeutic horticulture and rural reminiscence in a countryside setting.

The following are general guidelines to help referring agencies make appropriate referrals. **If in doubt please contact us to discuss the referral.**

When referring potential clients to us please check that they:

1. Do not require constant one-to-one support throughout the entire session (this does not exclude those who cannot walk unaided or unaccompanied, or people requiring wheelchair access). However, it may be possible for those with their own one-to-one support to attend activity sessions.
2. Do not require personal care in basic activities of daily living whilst they are at Countrymen's Club sessions. However, it may be possible for us to hold dedicated sessions for those people who may need to have a carer with them during sessions.
3. Do require access to opportunities that link to their past work and home lives, and will benefit from reconnecting with the rural environment.
4. Would benefit from social contact with fellow farmers and/or rural craftsmen and workers.
5. Have difficulty in gaining access to, and/or benefit from, mainstream activities or therapy sessions for older people.

**Whilst the Countrymen's Club aims to be inclusive, we are a specialist service designed specifically for people who are considered to be "excluded" and hard-to-reach, due to rural, socio-economic, and cultural factors. Please do contact us if in doubt.**