

REAL DEAL 

Love in Action - Lives Transformed

FURNITURE SCHEME

Jan 2016

**Supplying furniture
to those in need**

**The Old Police Station
104-108 Station Road
Ashington
NE63 9FE
Tel: 01670 462097**

**enquiries@realdealplus.org.uk
www.realdealplus.org.uk**



PEOPLE CENTRED!

People are at the heart of our business. Many of those helping at the Real Deal Plus Furniture Scheme are from disadvantaged backgrounds or have special needs and have been facing long-term unemployment.

We provide volunteering & training and work placement opportunities.

At Real Deal Plus, we enable people to fulfil their potential by providing a supportive and friendly working environment where confidence, skills and experience can be developed.

If you would like to help us provide this vital service to the Community please contact us on:

Tel 01670 462097 or via our website.



OUR AIMS

The primary aim of the Real Deal Plus Furniture Scheme is to provide any individual in need with low-cost, affordable items - primarily furniture, but our scope has expanded to include all types of household items including 'white goods'.

We collect free of charge, repair and redistribute items from the Ashington and surrounding area which would otherwise go into landfill, while also making available hundreds of items of furniture and household goods every year to people from the region.

The Furniture Project is run by a team of committed volunteers, who are motivated by the need to provide good quality re-usable household items to people in need. In meeting this need we are encouraged that our actions also help in the reduction of items going to landfill. We run collections and deliveries during the week and also on Saturdays.



■ WHO CAN GET HELP?



The introduction of Universal Credit is probably one of the biggest challenges to face the social housing sector in recent years. It brings with it a number of serious financial and social challenges. The 'bedroom tax', housing benefit caps and changes to the social fund (e.g. Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans) will lead to rent arrears, shorter-term tenancies, a greater number of re-lets and more people living with the fear and the reality of debt. The Real Deal Plus Furniture Scheme and our members can help to minimise these negative financial and social impacts. We particularly welcome referrals from Social Services and other Statutory Bodies but anyone receiving benefits can access our services (proof of benefit required) and receive help in the form of furniture, household items and white goods.

We are a Registered Charity (Charity Number 1148731) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Number 7886315). We also believe in equal opportunities and aim to help anyone in need.

■ DONATIONS

To support those in need, we must in turn rely on the generosity and support of the local community.

We ask that the furniture you donate is good enough that you would be grateful to receive it yourself.

- Items must be clean and free from rips, tears and breaks - if not there is a risk of us refusing to take them away.
- Items must be in full working order with no missing parts - damaged items may not be collected, we reserve the right to accept donations at the driver's discretion
- We do not run a dump/disposal service.
- All upholstered items must have a fire safety label.
- We do not currently take gas items e.g. gas cookers, heaters etc, large wall units, large old style TVs (flat screens only) or bric a brac.
- Good quality kitchen items are also appreciated as we use these to make up Social Services Starter packs.



■ Volunteering

Volunteers are a vital part of the Furniture Scheme. They gain job skills and we are then able to provide an employer's reference when employment is found.

Volunteers will receive an induction, health & safety, and manual handling training, if necessary.

Volunteers help in the following ways:

In the office - Volunteers can gain skills in office administration, retail and customer services, including managing the client database, dealing with enquiries or helping customers select items.

On the vans - Route planning, carrying out collections and deliveries, and loading and lifting furniture and appliances. Volunteers aged 25-70 with a clean driving license may also be able to drive the vans.

In the warehouse -

Organising stock, assisting customers, repairing and testing electrical appliances, or making improvements to furniture items. To volunteer contact us using the information below.

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