

# Bassetlaw Action Centre

## Case Study

Paul started volunteering for Bassetlaw Action Centre after hearing about their lunch trip scheme where residents in Bassetlaw are taken to a local pub, café or restaurant for a chance to eat together and socialise. As a former member of the British Army Paul is well used to driving bigger vehicles and was happy to drive Bassetlaw Action Centre’s minibus and Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. He could immediately see how important a service would help vulnerable or lonely people. *“For much of my time in the RLC I had a driver and they were a fundamental (but mostly unseen) member of my team. I thought it was time to repay their service”* says Paul.

The lunch trip scheme was part funded by the Community Transport Association which meant that clients received the transport for free and just paid for their lunch. Although that funding has now ended the trips have carried on and with just a £6.50 per person travel costs the trips still remain popular, showing the need for this kind of service.



Paul soon saw the value of other Bassetlaw Action Centre services and signed up to be a Community Car Scheme driver as well, taking people in Bassetlaw who are unable to access public transport to appointments and social events. *“The ongoing effects of self-isolating due to the risk of contracting Covid on people’s mental well-being and willingness to go out and mix should not be underestimated”* commented Paul. He also signed up to volunteer for chartered trips for non-profit making organisations and Bassetlaw Action Centre’s other minibus trips where clients go out for the day and, as with the lunch trips, the door to door service really makes a difference. *“Enabling people to enjoy activities that wouldn’t normally*



*be available to them brings a smile – it almost makes up for the noise that the schoolkids make for the entire journey!”*

Paul says of volunteering *“It’s good to be able to give something back to the community and to make a difference to someone, a recent comment by one of my WAV clients says it all - ‘finding out that you provided this service has restored my freedom!’.”* All of Bassetlaw Action Centre’s volunteers make a huge difference to the local community and, as Transport Manager Jayne Bullock says *“Our volunteer drivers are the wheels that keep our local community moving forward. Their selfless dedication and tireless efforts bring about a transformative impact. By offering transportation services to those who are unable to access public transport, our volunteer drivers bridge the gap between isolation and connection. They ensure that individuals can attend crucial appointments, social events, and enjoy activities that would otherwise be out of reach. In doing so, they not only restore a sense of freedom but also uplift the spirits and well-being of those they serve. Our volunteer drivers truly embody the essence of community support, making a difference one ride at a time.”*

