



Tea with the Changemakers

An illustration of a white teacup on a saucer, filled with green tea. Two speech bubbles, one purple and one green, are positioned above the cup, suggesting conversation.

Lisa Hewitt & Robin Hewings

TransPennine Express & Campaign to End Loneliness

“Customers do talk to each other when things go wrong on the train network, but when everything’s running smoothly people tend to stay in their own shell and journey.”

This week Kelly’s chatting with Lisa Hewitt, Partnership Marketing Manager at TransPennine Express and Robin Hewings, programme director at Campaign to End Loneliness (CIC) about their partnership, and how their chatty bench initiative is helping to combat isolation and loneliness.

Lisa discovered the Campaign to End Loneliness while on a walk during the pandemic. She came across one of their bus stop advertisements, which was encouraging people to put down their phones and connect with people around them. Lisa took this one step further and connected with Robin with the idea of working together.

This idea materialised in the form of ‘chatty benches’, which are placed at TransPennine Express managed stations throughout the North, supporting existing connections and fostering new ones as people travel!

So next time, before you jump on board look out for a chatty bench, you never know who you might meet, and how much it could brighten their day!

Find out more about the partnership here!

<https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/explore-the-north-and-scotland/our-partnership-with-campaign-to-end-loneliness>

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