

Chairman's Announcements - 19 April 2011

End of Life Care: Dying Matters Awareness Week 16-20 May 2011

There's one thing we can all guarantee in life and that is one day we will die. We choose how we live and how we have our children, but often don't get around to discussing our future plans. Death remains a taboo subject, something we're all afraid or unwilling to talk about.

NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Council and local hospices are joining in with national events planned for 'Dying Matters' week 16-20 May. The aim being to raise awareness of how we can talk about planning for our future care and putting plans in place with our families.

Ask most people how they would like to die and most would say 'at home, or a hospice, and surrounded by the people that I love.' But fewer than half of us achieve that aim.

Planning for your future not only ensures your wishes will be respected but that your family and loved ones are taken care of and supported at a very difficult time.

You can also really support your family by writing a will; planning your funeral and putting into place a power of attorney for someone to look after your affairs should you become incapable.

Look out for Dying Matters events this May in your local area. There is also very good advice at www.dyingmatters.org.uk.

Digital Inclusion

Wiltshire Council's business plan for 2011-15 has prioritised a number of areas for investment, of which digital inclusion and supporting the rollout of superfast broadband for both business and home users is a key area. The Council has set the ambitious target of enabling 85% of all premises to be able to access superfast broadband (possibly 95% with additional funding) and for all premises able to receive standard broadband by 2015.

To help understand existing coverage and the requirements for the future, Wiltshire Council will be launching a superfast broadband survey for home and business users between 26 April and 3 June. This will allow people to say what types of services they can currently access over internet and how well their service performs. The survey will also ask about their views for getting superfast broadband in their community the future. This information will allow the council to better understand the demand for this service and where it will need to prioritise investment.

The council is keen to get as many responses as possible to help inform its rollout plans over the next 4 years.

The survey will be available on-line and also available as a printed document. Details are available from: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/digitalinclusion

Printed versions can be requested by calling and asking for the digital inclusion survey from the start date of the survey - 0300 456 0100

Results of the survey will be shared on the council web site in July, via the same link.