

Update for Pewsey Area Board

Update from	Mary Soellner, Wiltshire Good Neighbour Scheme
Date of Area Board Meeting	January 2013
Headlines/Key Issues	

- **Supporting Older People to Live at Home for Longer:**

In the past year I have been asked to provide information and support to just over 140 older people in the Pewsey area. This has highlighted the need to make information accessible in rural Wiltshire and I have been delighted to work with the residents I have met in this role. .

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- I have made a large number of referrals for **fire and safety checks** in people's homes; supported people coming out of **hospital**; signposted dementia sufferers to the newly appointed local **Dementia Advisors**; referred many people to your local **Link Schemes** for transport, as bus services have reduced; and referred people to the **AgeUK befriending** service as well as supporting a small and very effective **friendship group in Pewsey**.

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- I have supported **activity groups** such as **Arts Together** in Pewsey, **Good Companions** groups in **Burbage and Upavon**, **WIs**, **coffee mornings** in **Woodborough**, and **Upavon** as well as local **support schemes**. I have also referred a number of your residents to these services.

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- I have supported vulnerable people as they have gone through significant life changes including **debt, divorce and house moves** all of which are a challenge at the best of times, and certainly can be more complicated at an older age. I have supported people through **bereavement** and the enormous demand for strength and determination that is required of the individual
 - As a scheme we continue to support older people intensively through the **colder winter months** and work hard to ensure that people are prepared for the challenges of the cold and the resulting higher fuel bills.
 - With **reduced hours** to come I may not be able to attend all the Parish Council meetings that I had hoped to come to, but I am available at the email address below and can be contacted by phone. **The Pewsey Area is a delightful one to work in, with so many friendly villages and villagers.**

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