

Briefing Note

Volunteering in St Keyne and Trewidland

2 minute read

1.0 Background

1.1 At the June meeting of the Oak Tree PPG¹, there was a presentation from Poppy Crichton from Neighbours Together, covering St. Neot, Warleggan and Mount. (see the extract from the minutes below). In summary, this group aims to act as a first port of call for residents with sometimes quite minor needs for help. One example given was the need to change a lightbulb: an easy task for some people, but which for a frail person trying to do alone, if they don't feel able to ask someone for help, could lead to a fall, with all that might entail. I am also aware via Facebook of an incident in St. Keyne earlier this year where a resident fell and was unable to call for help for more than a day.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 The proposal is whether there is any interest in investigating whether this kind of scheme could be applied to St. Keyne and Trewidland? If not, is there scope for a project to map out which of our residents might be more vulnerable (e.g. elderly, living alone) in order to establish whether they have support of any kind and 'plug gaps' where they exist.

Dr. Gilbert of Oak Tree Surgery was keen to explore the idea and support where possible. The related issue of regular med collections/deliveries has also been discussed before and could also form part of any discussion.

Extract of minutes from Oak Tree PPG meeting:

- *The Hub comes under the auspices of the Royal Voluntary Service to whom they pay a small annual fee.*
- *There are currently 16 volunteers involved.*
- *The work covers many aspects of community life, including hospital transport, prescription deliveries, simple house maintenance jobs etc. In addition it aims to provide help with loneliness and adopt a "friendly" approach to all residents in need of help.*
- *Although most of the work is mainly centred on elderly people, the Hub is open to anyone over the age of 18.*
- *It was agreed that a Community Hub could be set up in other areas. Poppy said that her contact is Ashleigh George. If it is considered that there is a strong desire to set up such a Hub in other areas, he can be contacted at ashleigh.george@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk (phone number 07815461533) Poppy has agreed that she can also be contacted if members wish to discuss the issue further.*

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¹ Patient Participation Group