

Dear Sarah,

I wanted to update Nuthurst Parish Council about how we are working to continue supporting local vulnerable older people during the current pandemic. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we had to temporarily shut down some of the services we usually offer, such as our day clubs and clubs for people with dementia, and adapt the services we are offering to ensure we are still able to help those who may be struggling and need us at this critical time. Demand for our support has increased dramatically and this shows no signs of abating.

We have continued to offer information and advice over the phone, to help older people who need support with their finances, housing, health, welfare and benefits. We have also been offering telephone support to those facing isolation and loneliness, doorstep deliveries of essentials such as food and medication and help in the home to those most vulnerable, such as those returning home from hospital. For more information on the services we are currently able to offer, please visit www.ageukhorshamdistrict.org.uk or call us on 01403 260560.

As we move into new stages of the pandemic and restrictions are starting to ease in most places, we are acutely aware of the challenges older people are facing and these are evolving as things change. Older people who have been isolating and shielding are starting to venture outside for the first time since March, but many are extremely anxious about the impact of returning to life outside of their home.

We want to continue to be there for all local, vulnerable older people who need support during these extraordinary times. With this in mind, we are currently putting together our 'Bags of Support' initiative; we are aiming to produce around 500 - 750 bags containing items to help provide comfort and reassurance to older people who need it, for example re-usable face masks, hand sanitiser, information and advice, including links to support services, and activities to keep them busy, among other things. The bags will be handed out by our staff and volunteers.

We are asking our local communities to help us produce these bags so they are available from October onwards. **Is Nuthurst Parish Council able to make a donation of £100 towards our Bags of Support?** Details of everyone who helps us produce the bags will be included in each of the bags.

As you may already be aware, on the 1st of July 2020 Age UK Horsham District merged with Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove, charity number 1086323. By bringing our organisations together, we will be able to share expertise, resources and local knowledge, to ensure all our services are sustainable and able to support the increased demand generated by Coronavirus. The impact of Coronavirus on income across the charity sector has emphasised how important it is for charities to work together and we will be able to work more efficiently as one larger organisation. The Horsham District name will remain locally, although the charity as a whole will now be formally known as Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove. We will continue to offer our services across Horsham District and now, more than ever, we need your support to do this.

If you are able to help us with this initiative we would love to hear from you. I very much hope you can help us support even more older people who need us at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Jo Prodger

Fundraising Coordinator

Age UK Horsham District | Lavinia House | Dukes Square | Horsham | RH12 1GZ



West Sussex Brighton & Hove ageUK

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(Monday to Friday)

Registered charity number 1086323

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