

Cared for at Home Network

PC Laura Evans is aiming to create a network for elderly or vulnerable adults who are cared for at home through carers, befrienders and others who have contact with people who may be more socially isolated. Police Scotland has seen a massive increase in frauds and in the age of technology, this will become more and more prevalent. A large number of these are telephone frauds and Laura believes this is due to a lot more social isolation and people being at home more often due to Covid.

She is aiming to create a system that allows your local Police and Trading Standards to create an alert that would go through to those who have signed up (ideally carers, befrienders or anyone else involved with vulnerable adults) who can then pass this message on to your clients and raise their awareness. This would include any scams that have been carried out locally in Argyll and Bute.

This will be hosted through Neighbourhood Watch Scotland and simply involves each person signing up to their service. Laura then will create alerts and title these ARGYLL AND BUTE FINANCIAL HARM and you would receive alerts on whichever communication you prefer (text or email).

Laura would like to start this early in 2021; however, it is reliant on organisations being interested and signing up to this. Please therefore can you let her know if you are interested by 11th January 2021 and she will aim to have this in place by the end of January.

Keep Safe

Keep Safe is a Police Scotland led initiative which works in partnership with I AM ME SCOTLAND which is a Community Charity that aims to raise awareness of disability hate crime which is seen as one of the most under-reported types of crime in Scotland and the UK (it is estimated that around 97% of disability hate crime goes unreported). Keep Safe aims to work with a network of businesses, shops and organisations to create safe places for people to go if they need help - maybe because they are lost they have lost their wallet, a phone or indeed, they are a victim of disability hate crime. Anyone can go into these premises and get assistance from the shopkeepers or the staff members who will assist them in any way possible. Premises have to meet certain criteria to make sure they are able to become formally recognised safe places.

Keep Safe Cards are issued to members of the community that would benefit from this (disabled person, a young person and older person or anybody in the community who may be vulnerable). The Keep Safe card contains information about that person and can be used to assist the holder to get help. By producing the Keep Safe card in a premises with the Keep Safe sticker in the window, that person knows that they can get help from a staff member. That help may well be that they just need a seat a cup of tea or it may be the victim of a crime and a staff member can call the police

Keep Safe is helping to make sure that people within the community can live a life that they want to live, a life that they choose to live and not a life that's dictated to by other members of the society. You can go from place to place or shop to shop where they want to without fear of any crime or harassment or abuse taking place. There is

an app available for all android and iphones, which is named Keep Safe Scotland, which shows all premises and provides further details.

For more information contact Laura.Evans@scotland.pnn.police.uk