

“Tillington Local Care” TLC

A new village group to facilitate care for anyone in need

With funding help from Chichester Locality Adults Services, a group in Tillington have set up a scheme offering assistance to anyone in the parish needing health care, special aids, benefits advice, or any of the many support services available through local organisations.

The Tillington Local Care (TLC) scheme was set up to raise awareness of what is freely available in terms of help and support, as people are unsurprisingly unaware until they need it. This is particularly true of those going into or coming out of hospital.

TLC can access over 120 care and support organizations ranging from Alzheimers' support groups, to equipment and adaptations in the home, from teenage cancer help, to independent living funds. .

Forging links with organisations has allowed TLC to facilitate whatever help, care, or support a person may need.

There are five very important aspects of how TLC functions:

1. TLC does not intrude uninvited, but exists to respond to requests for help.
2. All communications are subject to strict confidentiality .rules
3. Agreed written consent is required – to facilitate appropriate care from the right source.
4. Apart from transport the group does not offer direct care. The aim is to connect residents with recognized providers.
5. Initial contact to TLC is simple with one phone call all that is needed.

TLC has charitable status under the umbrella of the Village Hall. All team members understand and respect that confidentiality and integrity are paramount.

Why and how the scheme began - Ian Fergusson had an idea that the community would benefit from this type of service, drawing on his experience as a senior consultant at St Thomas' Hospital, when patients were often discharged to face unfamiliar challenges as they came to terms with changes in their circumstances. In late 2008 Gerald Gresham, who was aware of this, spotted an article in the local newspaper regarding funding through the Healthier Chichester Partnership. Under the Village Hall Management Committee an application was made. In the event that was not forthcoming (it ran out of cash!), but the group was then directed to WSCC Adults' & Children's Directorate, which gave TLC a grant of 75% (£1500) of the first year's estimated costs (£2000). A team of volunteers was recruited, a sub-committee formed under the charitable umbrella of Tillington Village Hall Management Committee, a Business Plan was developed and the TLC was launched at an inaugural presentation at the VH in September 2009, at which a good number (28) of people volunteered to be drivers when needed

Success of the scheme and take up:

TLC has responded to 53 requests for assistance since inauguration last September; an average of about 9 per month.

The most frequent requests are for transport in and out of the village, and also for help accessing small household adaptations. Doorbells with loud rings for people have been a recent success, which enable people to hear when someone is at the door, this means that some older people in the village who used to keep their front door open, are now able to have the security of a closed door without worrying that they may miss an important caller.

Records are meticulously kept on file, and the information contained is available to current or future funders, although personal data would not be supplied due to the strict confidentiality rules in the group.

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