

Village Agent Scheme

Introduction to your Village Agent

Brenda Smith



Hello,

I am Brenda Smith, Village Agent for Stock. The Village Agent scheme began last October with a number of pilot villages in Chelmsford, Maldon and Braintree districts. There are twelve agents, all Enhanced CRB checked, across the pilot areas with three agents based in Chelmsford. We work with rural communities to provide easy access to services and information to support a person's individual or family needs.

We can help older residents by signposting them to public and voluntary organisations that they may need and provide information and advice to promote health and independence in their own homes.

Over the coming months I hope to attend many of your local groups and events and look forward to meeting the residents of Stock.

How can a Village Agent help me?

Working as part of a well equipped team I am able to offer free confidential personal advice and a link to many services such as:

- Home adaptations and equipment to make your life easier and safer
- Home security, Fire safety checks and smoke alarm fitting
- Housing and getting jobs done around the home and garden
- Healthy living advice and activities such as fitness, weight loss or smoking cessation
- Making sure you are receiving the correct benefits or pension
- Information about all forms of travel and access to community transport
- Support opportunities for your family or carers
- Help you to become a volunteer to help others
- Access to local social groups, leisure activities and learning opportunities

I will be working to help people choose the best service and if requested I will also return to ensure you are satisfied. I aim to:

- Provide independent, confidential trusted advice
- Complement not duplicate existing services
- Reduce confusion and add value to service choice
- Help anyone in need, particularly the elderly and families
- Share information and experience
- Inform future Adult Health and Community Wellbeing strategy

I can be contacted by mobile on 07540 720612, via the free helpline on 0800 9775858 at the Rural Community Council of Essex or via the Website www.villageagentsessex.org.uk .