

July 2017

# NEWSLETTER



All the latest news from Age UK Cheshire East

## MP backs Charity's drive to tackle loneliness

*Recent visit highlights the plight of lonely older people*

David Rutley, MP for Macclesfield, recently visited Age UK Cheshire East's offices to learn more about the charity's work with older people and its plans for the future.



David Rutley looks around the Charity's showroom

The charity's important work in tackling loneliness was the primary focus of the meeting. Damon Taylor, Chief Executive, discussed the charity's emerging plans to develop projects that will help support more older people in the community.

David also took the opportunity to look around the charity's Furniture Showroom, which is located directly below the charity's offices in Henderson Street in Macclesfield. David found out more about the wide range of goods sold, all of which have been donated, with profits going to subsidise services provided by the charity.

Age UK Cheshire East provides services and support to older people throughout the Cheshire East area and campaigns to achieve positive change. We believe poverty, isolation and loneliness, poor services, inadequate care and support, discrimination and a lack of respect are unacceptable.

Speaking after the visit, David said: "It is clear that more needs to be done to tackle loneliness, particularly with older people who may not get the chance to get out and meet others on a regular basis. It was great to hear more about what Age UK Cheshire East has planned in this area, and I look forward to working with them in taking these plans forward.

"It was also good to have the opportunity to visit the showroom and see how the charity is using this initiative to generate funds which will in turn be used to provide services for older people in Macclesfield. I have been surprised at the wide variety and quality of the goods on offer, and would urge more local residents to come along and have a look, knowing that anything they purchase will go towards supporting older people, and helping tackle loneliness in our community."



David Rutley pictured alongside (l-r) Karen Wilson, Deputy Chief Executive; David Rahman, Showroom Manager; & Damon Taylor, Chief Executive



**We always need quality, pre-owned furniture, and will collect for free across Cheshire East. For more information, call us on 01625 440776**



**For information about any of our services, visit our website at [www.ageukce.org](http://www.ageukce.org) or telephone**



**01625 612958**

# Don't be scammed by the scammers

## Scams Awareness Month highlights risks for older people

This Scams Awareness Month, Age UK is warning that older people are particularly at risk of being scams victims, with over two-fifths saying they've been a target. Just over a tenth of older people have then gone on to respond to a scam. Age is a big factor in falling for a scam. People over the age of 75 are more inclined to give scammers their financial or personal information.

More than a fifth of people who had been targeted admitted to not telling anyone at all because they felt too embarrassed. Most people who did admit to being scammed only told their friends and family instead of an official channel.

Scams can even affect physical health— Scams can cause older people to lose their life savings and can really affect their quality of life. It's sadly common for older people who've been scammed to suffer from depression and isolation, and some even become in need of more care.

**Be wary of anyone who asks you for money or claims they have fallen on hard times.**

### Top tips to avoid being scammed

**Don't rush into anything.** Even if it seems like a great offer don't agree immediately. Speak to family and friends or call an advice agency like the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 04 05 06

**Never reply** to scam letters. If you do, your details could be **circulated to others** running similar schemes.

**Make sure the company is reputable.** Do your research on the seller. Check it's got a contact number and postal address and is a member of a trade association. Financial companies must be authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority. [Check their register online](#) or call 0800 111 6768.

**Don't worry about leaving someone waiting. A genuine person won't mind.**

putting up a notice saying you don't buy on the doorstep. If you're suspicious or the caller won't leave, call 999 and ask for the police.

**Know who's on your doorstep.** If you answer the door to someone you don't know, ask for an identity card and check it. You could phone the company they represent to check who they are. Think about

**Be wise to cold call scams.** Ignore unsolicited invitations such as letters, emails or phone calls offering a brilliant investment or saying you've won a lottery. Contact the Mailing Preference Service on 0845 703 4599 to have your name taken off UK direct mailing lists. Check your email account is set up to filter spam.

**Don't believe letters claiming you have won a fortune. If you haven't entered a lottery or prize draw, you can't have won it.**

**Avoid pension scams by getting independent advice before making decisions.**

loopholes, talks about overseas investments or says you can get your money before age 55.

**Be aware of new pension scams.** New rules allowing people to access their pension pots from age 55 have brought with them new scams. Be cautious of anyone that claims to know about

**Report it.** Don't feel embarrassed if it happens to you. Contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 to report it and get help

Your bank will **never call** you and ask for your PIN number or for you to give your card to a courier.

 **Want to know more? A detailed guide on avoiding scams is available by following this [link](#)**



# Joining Forces to support our veterans

## New project starts across Cheshire East

Age UK Cheshire East has just commenced an exciting new project which aims at working with aged armed forces veterans.

The three-year project, financed from the Aged Veterans Fund funded by the Chancellor using LIBOR funds, will work alongside other Veterans' charities across Cheshire East to identify and work with aged veterans who may be experiencing difficulties which prevent them from leading more active and fulfilling lives. Through a variety of interventions, the charity will aim to work with those individuals it has identified to ensure that the older men and women who have given so much of their time in the defence of their country, are justly supported when times prove more challenging for them individually.



The project will be led by Mike Askew (pictured) who up until the end of June, undertook similar work on Lifelinks, a project funded by Cheshire East Council which improved the health and wellbeing of people across the Borough. On taking on the new role, Mike commented "This is a really exciting new challenge, working alongside older veterans to improve their wellbeing and help them overcome some of the unique challenges that veterans can face. We estimate there to be approximately 5,000 aged veterans across the Borough so this project is much needed at a time when many public services are being withdrawn."



Although the project has now started, it will not be officially launched until the autumn, to allow Mike time to get to meet other key stakeholders and understand the services that are already out there supporting veterans before referrals can commence.

Mike added "This is an important project, but it is also vitally important that we do not duplicate the great work that other charities, such as The Royal British Legion, are already doing. The next few months will give me time to build relationships with partners to make sure that what we at Age UK Cheshire East are offering is targeted at the right people and best complements the support that is already out there."

The project in Cheshire East is one of 12 similar projects being funded across England and undertaken by local Age UKs. Funding for the project runs until April 2020.

**Contact Details:** If you would like to know more about this project, please contact Mike Askew, our Veterans Wellbeing Co-Ordinator on 01625 612968 or by email on [mike.askew@ageukcheshireeast.org](mailto:mike.askew@ageukcheshireeast.org)



## Blooming marvellous!

### Our Knutsford Shop bags RHS Award

Staff and volunteers at the Age UK Cheshire East shop in Kings Street, Knutsford are celebrating this month after their window display received a 'Merit' Award from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). The awards are made as part of the RHS's Knutsford Shops Best Dressed Window Shops Competition, which coincides with the Flower Show held at Tatton Park in the third week in July. Most of the flowers on display were donated by shop volunteers from their own garden, making a wonderful spectacle for shoppers popping in on their way to the Show!

**There's an Age UK Weekly Lottery winner in your area!**

Have you signed up yet?

Enter now by visiting [www.ageuk.org.uk/lotto](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/lotto)  
Or visit one of our shops for an easy to complete application form!

Only £1 per entry

## About us...

We are a local charity, providing a wide range of services to older people in Cheshire East. All the funds we generate are spent on delivering services locally. Our aim is to improve the later life of the people of Cheshire East. The main focus of our work is:-

- Support for people living with dementia
- Tackling loneliness
- Free Information & Advice
- Lifestyle support
- Men in Sheds
- Help in the Home



01625 612958



[enquiries@ageukcheshireeast.org](mailto:enquiries@ageukcheshireeast.org)



[www.ageukce.org](http://www.ageukce.org)



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