

# Older Driver Appraisal Scheme

The independence and freedom offered by driving your own car is highly valued by many older people. However, age-related frailty can make driving more of a challenge as you get older.

Driving is the most dangerous activity that most people take part in. The Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service's Older Driver Appraisal Scheme allows a professional driving assessor to identify any unnecessary risk in driving and help to correct this.

Helping older people on the Island to stay safe on the road for as long as possible, maintaining independence and helping reduce the impact of the ageing process on their quality of life also fits nicely into the aims of Age Friendly Island.

Once accepted onto the scheme, the appraisal takes place from the person's home, using their own car, and is delivered by an Approved Driving Instructor who has received the specialist training to deliver the Older Driver Appraisal. There is no added worry of travelling to an unfamiliar location or having to drive a vehicle they are not used to.

They have their driving skills assessed professionally, with the aim of enhancing current skills and to ensure ongoing safety. They can talk through any concerns they may have, and in turn receive advice and guidance in confidence. It is not a test so there is no pass or fail element.

Kevin Allen, the Approved Driving Instructor for the scheme said:

*"Mr A, who lives in a village in the southern part of the Island, had an appraisal in the summer of 2018 and then again this summer. On the drive last year, I identified two areas that needed to be addressed, the separation distance from the vehicle in front (too close) and late braking in response to hazards, which related to the first issue and we were able to work on this using the 'Two Second Rule', and improve both during the session.*

*This year when we went out onto the road it was immediately apparent both from his driving and verbal commentary that both issues identified last year were much improved."*



"Improves awareness and highlights weakness, all most beneficial. Highly recommended to friends in our senior years, most valuable"

Mr W.

# 81

Older Driver Appraisals completed since the scheme started in 2017

