

Nottinghamshire County Council's *Everybody needs good neighbours* campaign

People are being urged to look out for their elderly and disabled neighbours in a new campaign being launched across Nottinghamshire this month.

The Good Neighbour campaign aims to reduce the number of people who have falls, accidents or become victims of abuse or crime. The campaign is being run by Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) and is being supported by the County Council.



Abuse can be carried out by carers, family members or complete strangers. In Nottinghamshire there were nearly 3,000 alerts of adult abuse last year, which included physical, sexual and financial abuse.

Top tips for being a good neighbour will be distributed throughout the county and include:

- Helping out neighbours who are unable to get out and about in bad weather with tasks such as shopping, clearing paths in the snow or ice, getting a repeat prescription or putting out bins.
- Looking out for signs that something might be wrong, for example milk not taken in late in the day, newspapers stuck in the letterbox for a few days and bins being left out when they are normally put away.
- Informing elderly and disabled neighbours about the County Council's handy person scheme for small jobs such as putting up shelves and changing light bulbs for a small fee. Phone 08449 80 80 80 or visit www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/socialcare
- Advising neighbours to get crime prevention advice if there are security concerns. **Phone Nottinghamshire Police on 101** or visit www.nottinghamshire.police.uk to find out more.
- If there are concerns that a neighbour may be a victim of domestic violence, this can be reported to the 24 hour **Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 800 0340** or by contacting **Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111**.

People are also being encouraged to sign a Good Neighbour Pledge by visiting www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk

Allan Breeton, Chair of the NSAB, said: *"Many of us lead busy lives and often don't get chance to even stop and say hello to our neighbours. We're urging local people to take a few extra minutes to get to know those who live around them – particularly if they are elderly or disabled."*

"If someone has had an accident in the home, they may not be able to attract the attention of neighbours or passers-by, so we should all be on the look-out for signs that something may be wrong."

"Simple things like offering to go to the shop in bad weather or putting out someone's bin might make a huge difference, so please do your bit."

For a full list of tips, and to sign our good neighbour pledge visit <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/goodneighbour/>