

## SCCCC launches winter transport service to support older people across the city

October saw the launch of our latest service to assist health professionals and isolated, vulnerable people with appointments across the city in adverse weather conditions.

We know all too well the impact bad weather has on providing care within the community, with the recent flooding causing delays and cancellations for important health appointments. The predicted increase in extreme weather coupled with the unforgiving terrain of Sheffield, means that reaching those patients in our communities will only become more of an issue over the coming years.

Last year we were called on by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Trust to use our vehicles to transport staff and patients safely after bad weather hampered their efforts to reach cut off areas.

Mark Storey SCCC CEO said **“We came to the realisation that we needed to equip ourselves with a more suitable vehicle for this type of support. The use of a 4x4 would have allowed safe transportation for both staff and patients in all weather and emergency situations that require an off-road vehicle.”**

After receiving funding from the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board for a vehicle the charity has held a launch event in the presence of His Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant Professor Dame Hilary Chapman DBE, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Sioned – Mair Richards, Lady Mayoress, Cllr Jackie Satur, the Police and Crime Commissioner Dr Allan Billings and other specially invited guests from the NHS, Health services and Business across the city.

The specially adapted 4 x 4 all-terrain vehicle was launched alongside the charity’s first-ever electric



vehicle, a trike with carrier to allow SCCC staff to deliver small pieces of mobility equipment locally, helping to reduce emissions and save on fuel costs for the charity.

With the clocks going back in autumn the days seem to be longer with dark mornings and even darker evenings. This time of year can intensify feelings of isolation and loneliness. This is why we have a rolling programme of recruitment for befriending volunteers to support our most vulnerable.

It is with great pride that I can announce we have branched out to support older people in Doncaster after winning a contract with Doncaster Council, I am sure that our trusted and reliable staff will be there to provide them with a helping hand when they need it most.

As we face a long winter ahead I want to reassure our communities that we will be there to provide them with support and guidance at this challenging time.

Mark Storey, CEO



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**[www.scccc.co.uk](http://www.scccc.co.uk)**



## Offering a helping hand to older people in Doncaster

We are delighted to announce that we have won the contract to provide support to the city's most vulnerable older people by working in partnership with Doncaster Council.

As a long-established charity, we will be working closely with Doncaster Royal Infirmary and Doncaster Councils Community Partners to offer much-needed support through our Home from Hospital Scheme. Since taking over the contract on the 1st of October we have hit the ground running and have already taken a number of referrals for the scheme.

Karen Redfern, Operational Lead for the service said;

**“ This is a person-centred 4-week plan to help people regain confidence and to empower them to settle back into their home and community after hospital discharge. At SCCCC we have been running this similar service in Sheffield since 1977 helping to support over 5,000 older, isolated people a year.**

**We are delighted that we are able to branch out and offer our expertise to support the health professionals across Doncaster as well as provide much-needed support for vulnerable older people recently discharged from hospital.”**

## Meet service user June and her befriending volunteer Jackie

June (75) has lived in S6 for 22 years. She now shares her home with her two dogs, Lawson and Harley, her tortoise and budgie. Although she is independent, loneliness has still had a huge impact on her life.

“Life during Covid was a nightmare for me. My partner became very ill and I developed pneumonia and sepsis, at one point we were both in the same hospital. I realised then that I would not be able to look after him at home because of my own health issues. When he did come home he had fallen several times and I couldn't pick him up, the decision to move him to a care home was taken out of my hands, I had no choice. I've had a lot of physical pain in my life for many years, but there's no pain worse than loneliness. Loneliness and loss are wicked, terrible things.”

June was referred to SCCCC's Good Neighbour friendly visiting scheme and was matched with SCCCC volunteer, Jackie Gelder. Jackie said;

“I wanted to give something back and support vulnerable, lonely people. When I was introduced to June we instantly hit it off. We have become really good friends. We have a routine, we put the kettle on and talk about June's family, the pets, news, and politics. We have a bit of banter and a laugh”

June said, “I had forgotten what it was like to have a decent conversation with someone. Jackie is like family, she tells me straight when I am being mardy and puts me in touch with reality - she has made a huge difference to my life.”

## Handmade blankets made with love



SCCCC has set out to help older people stay warm, healthy, and comfortable this December, recognising that older people suffer some of the harsher impacts of the colder weather.

We launched a winter blanket campaign encouraging people to create and donate hand-crafted blankets to help keep our most vulnerable older people protected this winter.

Many isolated older people, whose only companion is the TV, are exposed to constant warnings from the media regarding the major increases in energy bills this winter. Consequently, many will become fearful of even switching their heating on at all.

Kind members of the public have crocheted and knitted blankets and granny squares for us to gift to our service users this Christmas. Here is the Lady Mayoress, Cllr Jackie Satur doing her bit to support.



## Big Give Christmas Challenge

For the first time, we are taking part in a match funding campaign where all donations received are doubled. The campaign goes live for one week from Tuesday 29th November - 6th December. You can donate as little as £1 to help us reach our target of £6,000. These donations will help us recruit more befriending volunteers to visit people in their homes, helping to keep them socially connected.



**BIG GIVE**



## 100 club charity lottery

For just £12 per year you could be in with winning a monthly cash prize, with 50% of the monthly total going to the charity, 40% to the winner and 10% rolling over for a large December pot. Its win, win for everyone!

Scan the QR code to sign up online today.



If you can spare an hour a week and visit an older person for a cuppa and a chat please email our volunteer recruitment team: [volunteers@scccc.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@scccc.co.uk)

## GET INVOLVED...

### Could you offer a helping hand? Volunteer for SCCCC

Each day the Hospital to Home team drive miles around Sheffield delivering equipment and helping to support older people whilst in hospital, on discharge and beyond. We are always looking for volunteers to spend time with the team to assist in the following tasks:

- Collection of personal belongings for patients whilst in hospital.
- Delivery of equipment such as mobility aids, temporary key safes.
- An emergency food shop.
- The moving of furniture to make way for a hospital bed in a patient's home.
- Feeding pets.

You would always be accompanied by a member of staff and the time commitment can be for a full day, morning or afternoon.

If you are interested, then please contact [volunteers@scccc.co.uk](mailto:volunteers@scccc.co.uk) for more information.



# LETTERS

Dear SCCCC,

Thank you for sending Dawn to talk to me. I talk to Dawn if I have any problems and she always listens. I find Dawn a very cheerful person, full of life, we have lots of good laughs. Dawn cheers me up for the rest of the day.

Pat - Service user Good Neighbour Scheme

### What are your thoughts about SCCCC? Share them with us.

Email: [mail@scccc.co.uk](mailto:mail@scccc.co.uk)

Make a donation today to help SCCCC to maintain the level of care that all of our friends and families deserve. Your donation will go a long way to improving the level of care in our communities.

**£5 can pay for** an emergency food parcel to be delivered to an older person's home who has just been discharged from hospital and has no support.

**£10 can help provide** emergency practical support for an older person in need.

**£20 can support a** fully trained friendly visitor to visit an older person at home - helping to reduce isolation and preventing ill health which can result in hospital re-admission.



If you would like to make a donation please complete the following slip and return it to us with your donation to: Unit 19, President Buildings, Savile Street East, Sheffield, S4 7UQ.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
to Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Tick to apply

**Please make cheques payable to: SCCCC. Do not send cash.  
Or visit our website: [www.scccc.co.uk](http://www.scccc.co.uk) and donate online.**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England: 1168077,