

Press Release

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For immediate use – March 27th, 2020

Local Age UK makes urgent appeal for its ‘doorstep deliveries’ during pandemic

Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove is calling on people to donate groceries and other essentials to older people who are housebound during the Coronavirus pandemic. The charity is collecting items, which it will deliver to people’s doorsteps, to help ensure they have the provisions they need to stay healthy during this difficult time. Collection points are in Brighton & Hove, Crawley, Haywards Heath and Bognor Regis.

As well as delivering groceries and medication, the charity is also providing knitting kits, CDs/DVDs, books and jigsaws to stave off boredom. Tinned food, long life milk, bread, toilet roll and cleaning products are most in demand.

Helen Rice, Chief Executive at Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove said “I know shopping is difficult at the moment, but we’re asking anyone who can spare anything to drop it at our centres. We’re working with isolated, lonely and sometimes frightened older people, many of whom don’t have family or friends to rely on. We’re determined to be there for them but we need the public to get behind us every step of the way.”

Peter Kyle, MP for Hove said “It’s been amazing to see how quickly Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove has adapted to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19. The scale of need is without precedent and rapidly changing. We need to celebrate and support their work to ensure they can continue reaching isolated and vulnerable older people with essential help. Age UK is their lifeline and needed more now than ever before.”

Age UK West Sussex, Brighton and Hove has quickly adapted the way it works in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. As well as the doorstep deliveries, the charity is offering information and advice, emergency welfare and safety support to the most vulnerable, telephone befriending and wellbeing advice.

Age UK West Sussex and Age UK Brighton & Hove merged in July 2019. Last year the charities helped over 15,000 older people, tackling a range of issues like poverty, social care and loneliness as well as helping people make the most of later life.

People should drop donations to their nearest collection point between **9am - 11am or 1pm - 3pm, Monday to Friday.**

BOGNOR REGIS The Laburnum Centre Lyon Street Bognor Regis, PO21 1UX	HAYWARDS HEATH Lamb House 2 Kleinwort Close Butlers Green Road RH16 4XG	CRAWLEY 1 Town Barn Road West Green Crawley West Sussex RH11 7XG	BRIGHTON & HOVE 29 – 31 Prestonville Road Brighton BN1 3TJ
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Donations needed

<p>MOST URGENTLY NEEDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tinned Vegetables • Tinned Soup • Tinned Meat and Fish • Long Life Milk • Microwaveable Foods that do not need refrigeration • Eggs • Fresh or Part Baked Bread/Rolls • Toilet Rolls • Cleaning Products 	<p>ALSO ACCEPTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jigsaws • Knitting Wool & Needles • Craft kits • CDs and DVDs • Books
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If you are self-isolating and need support, or if you're worried about a friend or family member during this time, please contact Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove on **01903 731 800** or email information@ageukwestsussex.org.uk

Ends

For further information, please contact:

- Sally Sharpe on sallys@ageuk-bh.org.uk / 07734 130 524 or
- Vicki Rayment on vicki.rayment@ageukwestsussex.org.uk / 01903 731800

Information for editors:

- Age UK West Sussex, Brighton & Hove is following social distancing guidelines. People delivering donations can drop them on the doorstep, knock, then step away to help protect themselves and our staff/volunteers.

For more information about **Age UK West Sussex** please call the charity's head office in Littlehampton on 01903 731800; email admin@ageukwestsussex.org.uk or visit the website www.ageukwestsussex.org.uk.

Our organisation

Age UK West Sussex and Age UK Brighton & Hove work together to provide services and support to over 50s in our area. In addition to the Information and Advice service there are clubs and centres offering activities for fun, friendship and health in Crawley, Haywards Heath, Burgess Hill, Littlehampton, Bognor, Adur and Brighton areas. There are also Home from Hospital, Relative Support, Take Home and Settle and Help at Home services available in many areas.