

Dear Parish Clerk,

My name is Sue. I live in Dersingham with my 92 year old mother.

I am writing to you as I am very concerned about older people who have a fall, which can often result in a long lie on the floor. As a result I have began work on a project which will enable the placing of a Manger Elk (lifting equipment) in each Parish with local volunteers who can be called on to assist the person to get up. The volunteers will also be able to undertake an initial assessment in the community and call on the health services if necessary.

I have discussed the situation with the ambulance service who say that 17 per cent of their none urgent calls are falls of people over 65. There are 39 500 people in West Norfolk over 65 and whilst all of them will not be prone to falls, this is a large number of people who could be subject to a long lie on the floor, waiting for an ambulance. The ambulance service are very supportive of the scheme and have offered to train the volunteers. I have also had a discussion with people in Health and Social Care and they are also supportive and are presently discussing how they can support the initiative

My reason for being so keen to develop this initiative is because my mother is prone to falls and has had a number over the past two years. As I am on my own with my mother I have been unable to lift her and have called the SWIFT TEAM at Norfolk County Council. Each time the team have been unable to attend and I have been advised to call 999. The last fall mum had was in February and we were advised of a five hour wait for an ambulance, Fortunately we did not have to wait this long but mum did end up with a wait of 9 hours on the QEH forecourt. I have since found out from the health service that a long lie on the floor is dangerous for an elderly person.

I am very keen to see this project develop and would really like to involve your council. I would love to come and talk to your councillors more about the initiative and how I see it helping older people in your local parish.

I can be contacted via this email or on 0780xxxxxx and I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards

Sue