

## EMERGENCY AND ONE OFF VISITING

Long serving volunteers will recall that we have for many years kept a list of volunteers who are happy to be contacted in the event that we have to respond to some sort of emergency. This may be caused by an unusually prolonged period of very cold or wintry weather or possibly some other form of emergency such as flu pandemic, perhaps even a heat wave!

This matter arose following discussions with volunteers who felt that in the event of emergency arising in our area, which would cause serious problems for our most frail older people; they would like to be able to help. It was also recognised that occasionally we may be asked for what we call “one-off assistance” such as helping with packing or picking up a prescription etc.

At the moment we have very particular concerns about the impact of **Pandemic Swine Flu** on older people, both directly and indirectly i.e. if carers become ill, how will frail older people get the help upon which their health and well being depends? Do we need to keep a more frequent eye on our most frail and isolated clients?

We must now assemble our resources and this includes asking all our volunteers if they would consider helping in the event of some sort of emergency such as **Swine Flu** occurring (or perhaps if we simply need someone who can spare a couple of hours of help to pack or unpack a few boxes – for instance)

We are extremely grateful for everything that our volunteers are already doing through their regular volunteering, but I hope volunteers will understand why we now have to make these kinds of plans.

Please complete and return to us the enclosed form if you would be prepared to receive a call from us in the event that assistance is required as described above.

James Player