

Report of Outputs of Stay Safe Stay Connected Project July 2016 - June 2017.

Funded by Dyfed –Powys OPCC

1. The project was based on the premise that awareness needs to be raised in the whole community, as well as targeting the elderly, isolated and vulnerable, with information and support. To this end a short scam leaflet tailored to the community was drafted and printed following approval of the Stay Safe Stay Connected Project Team and Solva Care Committee members. It was distributed at the August Solva Cinema screening attended by 28 people, 6 of whom were teenagers (5 taken from tables, read by 9), Solva Church Fete (56 taken at ticket office) and Edge Festival (43 taken at ticket office). The latter event was a difficult place to distribute it on account of people arriving in large groups and there being little time for people manning the office to draw attention to the Project and accompanying information. Leaflets were also placed in the bar area but there was no one to hand them out there. A preamble generates interest and people are more likely to take away the leaflet. Encouragingly no leaflets were discarded at these venues.
2. IT training on the safe use of the internet was provided by Digital Communities Wales (DCW). Six Solva Care volunteers attended. The topics covered included safe passwords, safe financial management and useful sites on health and well being. The event was evaluated by DCW. All found it useful and learned new facts and skills. These are being passed onto elderly, vulnerable clients in Solva.
3. The screening of 'Catch me if you can' and talk by the local neighbourhood police on avoiding scams was attended by 23 residents. The numbers were low because of the poor weather. Seven randomly selected attendees were followed up with a short interview to evaluate the evening. The age range of the respondents was 1 (30-40), 1 (50-60), 4 (60-70), 1 (70-80). Most (5) did not feel that they had learned something new. This was due to the presentations by the Police being short and lacking information. Most (6) found the evening useful and all enjoyed it. On a scale of 1-5 (5 being excellent) all thought the evening was excellent or very

good. All thought that the event successfully raised their awareness of scams.

4. A special coffee morning was held in Solva Memorial Hall. People were encouraged to bring along or share information about scams they had come across. PCSO Jude Parr and Sandra McSparron from Trading Standards assisted on solutions. The morning was attended by approximately 20 people. There were information packs distributed by the Police of *How to stay safe over the Christmas season* which residents could take home.
5. The Project Team ran a quiz testing knowledge of scam avoidance in the December Solva Village Newsletter, the prize being a trueCall device. There were 30 entries received and a draw was made of all entries by residents over 60 to pick the winner of the telephone device. Most got the answers right. Anyone under 60 had the chance to win the 'Catch me if you can' blu-ray DVD.
6. Monthly inserts were written for the Solva Village Newsletter on all types of scams. The inserts were included on the Solva Care page which is widely read. The newsletters are distributed to over 400 households.
7. We have no data as yet on the impact of the project on reporting and have asked our neighbourhood police for data. They, in turn have asked us to contact OPCC. We have yet to receive a response to the following request for data:
 - In the last two years, preferably by year, how many people have been victim of scams (of any type) in Solva.
 - In the last two years, again by year, how many attempted scams, of any type, have been reported to the police by Solva residents.

We will also contact Action Fraud for any data they can supply to us.

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