

High Peak support service for elderly and vulnerable people is proving huge success

A High Peak resident who's being supported by a free local service after leaving hospital says volunteers are "kind, helpful and caring."

Ann Wood, 83, was referred to the Home from Hospital scheme earlier this year and has received help with her shopping as well as attending medical appointments and generally making friends.

The service is coordinated across the borough by New Mills and District Volunteer Centre, Glossop Volunteer Bureau, and Buxton's Voluntary and Community Services Peaks and Dales.

Ann, from Glossop, explained: "I found the Home from Hospital volunteers most kind, helpful and caring people. They will shop for you if you can't get out, or take you shopping or to appointments, or even just sit and chat with you- the choice is yours.

"I would encourage anyone just out of hospital to get in touch with the service, as it has helped me so much. I lacked the confidence to go out, but I have received lots of help and encouragement from the volunteers and I now feel much more confident than I did when I first left hospital. I am so grateful for all their help."

Glenys Hawkins is also from Glossop and is a Home from Hospital volunteer. She said: "I have always been keen to involve myself in giving something back to society since becoming a widow and then retiring from paid work. In the course of the range of activities I have been involved in, the thing I found I most enjoyed was to have personal contact on an individual basis and this project gave me exactly that. I have felt so rewarded by seeing first-hand the positive results of my contribution to rebuilding the confidence of service users."

The Home from Hospital service is funded by Derbyshire County Council, in partnership with the NHS Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

Anne-Louise Black coordinates the programme from New Mills and District Volunteer Centre. She said: "The Home from Hospital service has been really popular since its launch in July. Home from Hospital isn't just for those leaving hospital though, and we support people across the High Peak and North Derbyshire Dales area who might need some extra help at home, particularly over winter when they might struggle to get out and about.

"I'd encourage anyone in the local community – stretching across the borough from Buxton, New Mills and Glossopdale - to please get in touch and have a chat about how we might be able to help."

Contact Anne-Louise by phone 01663 744196 or email: Anne-Louise@nmvc.org.