

## West Midlands Regional Seminar & Networking Event

Joint event with NCRH (National Centre for Rural Health and Care)

**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Subject:** Rural Health & Wellbeing

**Chair:** Councillor Roger Phillips, Herefordshire Council

**Host:** Online Event via Zoom

### Learning Outcomes

#### 3 Examples of Good Practice

- **Support Staffordshire** – Liaison between County Council and Voluntary Sector and County Council (COVID-19) emergency hotline as ‘safety net’.  
<https://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/>
- **Online Rural Health Proofing Toolkit** – Will be launched later in the year. They are looking for a social services case study or others wanting to test the toolkit. Please contact [admin@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sparse.gov.uk) for more information.
- **Alertacall** – Individuals no longer need to wear an alarm which they are not keen to do but can check in daily via various methods. They have control over their amount of digital and human contact. [www.alertacall.com](http://www.alertacall.com)

#### 5 Key Learning Points

- Need Best Practice on supported access to technology (to prevent ‘re-inventing the wheel’).
- How do we retain new community of volunteers that have emerged during the pandemic?
- Services are linked – better designed housing policies can help the aging population and improve health and preventative services.
- Different levels of support provided – from the first layer of ‘neighbourliness’ all the way through to the County Council support helpline, with people accessing services at lower levels, it ensures that there is capacity at the County Council to help those in greatest need.
- FUNDING! How can Councils continue to deliver their social care services and support services to rural populations when funding for rural authorities is so much less than that provided to urban areas.

#### Future Issues to Consider

- Children’s health in rural areas.
- Concept of a ‘Digital Nurse’, or ‘Digital Healthcare Visitor’.
- Topol Review - <https://topol.hee.nhs.uk/>
- This includes recommendations to ensure the NHS is a world leader in using digital technology to benefit patients.

Providing a voice for rural communities and service providers

#### Rural Services Network

Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, Devon, PL19 0BZ

Tel: 01822 813693

[www.rsonline.org.uk](http://www.rsonline.org.uk) email: [events@sparse.gov.uk](mailto:events@sparse.gov.uk) twitter: @rsonline