

ONE ILFRACOMBE



www.oneilfracombe.org.uk

Building upon the initial work plan designed in conjunction with the team at One Northern Devon, One Ilfracombe hit the ground running to provide support to the vulnerable members of the Ilfracombe Community. Within 72 hours of an initial meeting on 13th March the town had been split into 11 different areas, 50+ area volunteer coordinators had been identified, 9 separate Facebook Groups established and a leaflet designed and mass produced.

Word of the volunteer effort spread quickly as the team exploited social media to the max to get the message across - The system worked - Over the next 5 days every household received a personalised copy of the leaflet delivered by an army of local volunteers whose numbers had now swelled to over 300. One Ilfracombe received both local and national recognition for this work with the BBC filming and interviewing the team and the One Ilfracombe volunteers for a video that was broadcast on national BBC Breakfast News.



Miriam, the One Ilfracombe connector, continues to receive requests for signposting assistance. Numbers remain on a par with those seen pre-COVID protocols with the exception of GP referred cases resultant from fewer people attending the surgery.

However the cases she has received are extremely complex and time consuming in nature, this is something that has also been reflected in the growing number of cases being referred to the One Ilfracombe team via the volunteer co-ordinators.

Miriam can be contacted Monday to Wednesday via email – miriam.turner@northdevon.gov.uk or on 01271 855316. The majority of the services she signposts to are still operating via phone, email or zoom/skype so you can still be directed to them for support.

With hundreds of prescriptions collected, tons of shopping delivered, many miles of dog walking undertaken and far too many befriending phone calls made to even begin counting, the effort required to organise and maintain the COVID support effort in Ilfracombe has resulted in many of the previously planned projects being shelved. However, the team are looking forward to dusting off these plans when government guidance permits.