

New Readycall Home from Hospital Service.

Readycall has been awarded funding from NHS Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group to launch a new service for the southern Derbyshire Dales, helping patients make a seamless transition from hospital to home.

The service will assist people aged 65 and over, who have little or no support networks when coming home from a stay in hospital. With the support of volunteers Readycall offers companionship and help with simple practical tasks such as shopping and collecting prescriptions. The support will last for up to six weeks to help people regain their confidence and independence. There is also the possibility to have ongoing support from the Readycall befriending service after that.

Sarah Clowes, recently joined the service as the Coordinator. Sarah brings a wealth of experience to the role having worked as a Social Worker for the last eight years. She said: "Home from Hospital will mean people can receive the support of a caring volunteer who will be there to help them get back on their feet after a stay in hospital.

"We know that placing a volunteer with someone when they come home from hospital can make a huge difference not only to their ability to cope with practical tasks but also to offer friendship and a listening ear."

Dr Paul Wood, Chair of NHS Southern Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We're pleased to support this Home from Hospital service, which is one of a number we have funded across our area, to help people with little alternative support to come home after a hospital stay.

“Readycall help patients have a much easier and more comfortable experience in getting back home to their familiar surroundings and routine.

“By getting people home at the right time, with the right support, we can help them stay well and recover in the best way.” Volunteers help people like Sheila, who after a recent spell in hospital, was unable to drive and was struggling with her shopping. Our volunteer popped in once a week to pick up the list and nip to the shops for Sheila, after six weeks Sheila was able to drive again. She said: “It was invaluable to me and excellent at a time when I really needed to have some help”.

The Readycall Home from Hospital service needs volunteers in the local area. If you would like to join our friendly team please contact Sarah Clowes on 01335348600