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Registered Charity No, 800912

Working in partnership with



***If you don't tell your people, who will?
Together, we can.***

Digital TV switchover in the West TV region will happen in two stages, 24th March 2010 and 7th April 2010. Free switchover briefing and grants are available.

- The UK-wide switch to digital TV is already underway.
- Everyone must have converted or upgraded their TV to digital to continue watching TV after switchover. In our West TV area, the signal is provided by the Mendip transmitter and its relay stations. They all switch on 24th March 2010 and 7th April 2010:
- For many, especially the vulnerable, television is an important source of entertainment and company and the process of changing to digital may be worrying. So it is very important for all of us, charities and voluntary organisations, to work closely together to make sure everyone we serve gets the support they need.

There are 2 main ways people can receive this help and support in our area.

1. Switchover Help Scheme (SHS - run by the BBC by agreement with the government)

- Those aged 75 or over, who have lived in a care home for six months or more, who get (or could get) certain disability benefits, or who are registered blind or partially sighted, are eligible for support from the Switchover Help Scheme to convert one TV set to digital.
- Everyone eligible will be offered practical help, including equipment, installation and aftercare, to convert one of their TV sets to digital in the run-up to switchover in their region.
- The SHS writes to all eligible people 3 times to let them know what help they can receive.
 - First mailing by 21st September 2009. Local community and voluntary organisations can start to expect questions from their people from hereon.
- It costs £40, or for those entitled to certain income-related benefits, it is free.

2. Community Outreach Programme (run by Digital Outreach Ltd, AC Wiltshire and YOU)

- Digital Outreach Ltd (DOL) is to deliver the digital switchover community outreach programme on behalf of Digital UK, the organisation responsible for leading switchover across the UK.

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- Some people not eligible for support via the SHS, or who choose not to take it up, may also need help to switch. The outreach programme works through you - local charities and voluntary organisations to provide that support.
- DOL has appointed Age Concern Wiltshire (ACW) as the lead local organisation in Wiltshire's West TV region. ACW needs to work with you to deliver a range of activities to assist people via the Community Outreach Programme, which is targeted at six groups:
 - Older people
 - People who have sensory, mobility and/or dexterity impairments
 - People who have a learning disability
 - People who have mental health problems
 - People who do not have English as a first language
 - People who are socially isolated.

Booking a free briefing session

- Briefing sessions are available for those who will raise awareness and understanding of switchover and the Help Scheme in their organisation, who then can cascade the information to their colleagues and volunteers.
- Briefing sessions can be held within your organisation or at a location chosen by them to ensure maximum participation.
- There is no charge to attend, just advise us when you are free for a session to be run (after 24 September).

Grants, materials and other assistance

- Other support available through us includes:
 - Small grants for new local switchover related activities or initiatives
 - Speakers for presentations and meetings
 - Good practice sharing and advice on local activities or initiatives
 - Switchover and Help Scheme leaflets and materials
- It is vital that people, especially the vulnerable, receive the right information and advice to make the switch to digital - and that those who most need it can look to a local organisation that they know and trust to provide it. **This is where you can help.**
- An information pack from Digital UK has been designed to help organisations share information about switchover with people in the community easily. The packs will be ready shortly, but can be requested in advance. Please contact me and I will ensure you are sent one as soon as they are available.

For more information, materials or to book a briefing session, please contact me on 01380 735522 or email nick.whelan@ageconcernwiltshire.org.uk.



Nick Whelan
Digital Switchover Community Outreach Project Officer