

EAST MIDLANDS LATER LIFE FORUM

Workshop on Doorstep Crimes and Scams

East Midlands Later Life Forum (EMLLF) held a workshop on 23rd February 2015 on Doorstep Crimes and Scams led by Lynne Woodward, Equalities and Diversity Officer from Leicestershire Police and Caroline North from Trading Standards. Lynne is an Associate Member of EMLLF and has developed a good partnership with us over a period of time. Our workshops cater for approximately 40-45 delegates in order to ensure that attendees can ask questions and discussions can take place on the issues raised. The evaluation of the event was very positive. In particular, attendees felt that the topics covered were very relevant to older people and felt comfortable that they would be able to share the information received.

Both the Police and Trading Standards representatives felt that there has been a significant increase in rogue traders and Scams. There were several information handouts at the event.

For further information please contact Barry Wilford at

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Topics covered included **Cold Callers** and how to handle this. Very often people offer to undertake odd jobs, and selling items door to door. Vulnerable people and those who live alone can find this hard to refuse.

Organised gangs – drug dealers; “legitimate” guise; Companies selling items such as Burglar Alarms, Mobility Aids at an inflated price.

Scams – this is on the increase with the over 55’s being targeted. Only 10% of such crimes are reported.

The Think Jessica Website is particularly useful to help people to recognise a scam and also highlights postal scams. www.thinkjessica.com

Steps to take to stop being a victim:

- Register with the telephone & mail preference services (renew every year)
- Put the phone down without speaking on all ‘silent’ or sales calls otherwise you are placed on a ‘suckers list’ and will receive further calls.
- Remove your details off 192.com
- Do not be on a public register
- Purchase a call blocker unit

WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THE WORKSHOP

The issue of doorstep crimes and scams has been discussed at the Age Action Alliance (AAA) Money Matters Group and an excellent Factsheet put together. Please visit the AAA website for more information or contact Barry Wilford who is both a Member of EMLLF and is also the Chair of the Age Action Alliance Money Matters group.

Liz Mandeville

Chair, for and on behalf of East Midlands Later Life Forum