

SCAMS AWARENESS BULLETIN

Happy New Year!

**Older Persons
Scams
Awareness &
Aftercare
Project**

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Welcome to the relaunch of the Scams Awareness Bulletin. We are delighted to be back and looking forward to sharing vital information with you to keep yourselves and loved ones safe from fraud. Our project works in partnership with Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester Trading Standards Teams. We are funded by the Lloyds Banking Group Proceeds of Crime Fund and by Dan Price, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire.

Since the last edition of the bulletin some exciting changes have been occurring behind the scenes. In July 2024 Age UK Cheshire and Age UK Cheshire East merged into one unified charity – Age UK Cheshire, to serve older people across the entire county. This has enabled our Scams Awareness & Aftercare Project the opportunity to expand our service to cover the whole of Cheshire. We are excited about the future of the project and preventing more people from becoming a victim of fraud.

Read on to see how we can help to keep you and your loved ones safe...

The Scams Awareness & Aftercare Project:

The Scams Awareness & Aftercare project offers:

- Awareness raising sessions to groups of people. The sessions are tailored to suit any size of group, and we offer them to groups of older people, volunteers and people who work with older people. Our focus is to provide relevant information and top tips to keep yourselves and loved ones safe from different types of fraud.
- 1:1 sessions. For those people who may not belong to a group or would prefer a more personal discussion we will meet you, in your home, or place you feel comfortable, and talk through your specific concerns around keeping safe. This can be a particularly valuable opportunity if you have had a near miss.
- A monthly Scams Bulletin where we will provide information about current frauds, do deep dives into fraud trends and update you on local frauds.
- An aftercare service for people who have been victims of fraud. We provide practical and emotional support to victims, helping them to regain their confidence and rejoin their community.

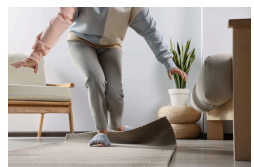


If any of our services are of interest then please do get in touch via email scams@ageukcheshire.org.uk or 01625 612 958

Age UK Cheshire Services:



Warm Homes: Our Warm Homes programme is designed to help you stay warm, healthy and comfortable throughout the cold winter months.



Home Hazard Assessments & Advice: The service aims to reduce falls at home by assessing your home and providing guidance on how to keep yourself safe and well (Cheshire West & Chester)



AGE UK Cheshire Services:



Keep In Touch: Our befriending service, linking older people who may not get the opportunity for a regular friendly chat, with one of our friendly telephone volunteers.



Information & Advice: Our free information and advice service is available to anyone aged 50+, their families and friends, professionals and carers.



Green Connections: Green Connections supports older people in Crewe to reconnect with nature in their yards, gardens and window boxes.



Help at Home: If you are over 50 living in Cheshire East, one of our Home Helpers could make your life so much easier.



Coach Trips: Are you eager to explore new places, soak in stunning scenery, and experience the rich culture of Britain? Join us on one of our delightful coach trips!



Will writing service: Through Age UK Cheshire you can have a basic* Will written for a special offer of £75, this is a much-reduced fee!



Bright Memories Dementia Service: is a day activity group for people living with memory loss or the early stages of dementia (with or without a diagnosis).



Independent Living Service: helping you remain at home, with the right support, for as long as you wish.

To learn more about our services please go to our website: [Age UK Cheshire](https://www.ageukcheshire.org)



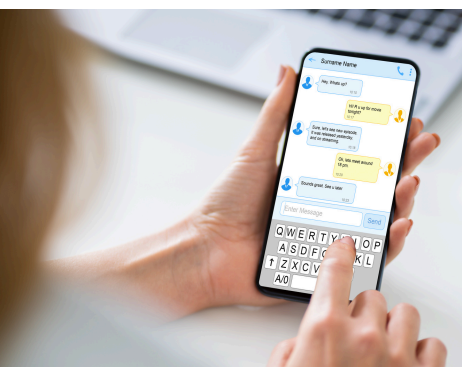
Here are some recent frauds to look out for:



We have had numerous reports across Cheshire and Greater Manchester that criminals are targeting car park ticket machines. Be careful if scanning QR codes, you may think you are paying for parking but actually lining criminals' wallets. Additionally in some instances criminals are posing as car park attendants, complete with chip and pin machines. Always pay at the machine or use the approved Parking App. Cheshire East Council have recently changed to the RingGo app.



Cheshire Police are warning that they have noticed an increase in the amount of scam calls being reported concerning banking fraud. Criminals are posing as Police Officers requesting help to investigate local bank branches. They may ask you to withdraw cash or transfer money into a 'safe account' as part of their investigations. They may arrange for a courier to come and collect the cash, or to take you to a bank branch. The Police will NEVER ask you to withdraw money. Always hang up and contact your bank's fraud department on 159 to report any suspicious activity.



We continue to receive reports that people are receiving text messages offering a Winter Fuel Payment or an Annual Allowance by the Government. These texts refer to payments/allowances that are not official government schemes. Remember, never click on a link or download an attachment. Criminals are simply trying to get your personal or financial details. Report suspicious text messages, for free, to 7726.

Please share with family, friends & community groups.

