

RYE MUTUAL AID

Mutual Aid Group for Rye and surrounding area

DESCRIPTION, AIM & ETHICAL GUIDELINES

Aim and description

As a group of volunteers from Rye and surrounding area, our aim is to offer a safety net to those residents who are self-isolating, when they do not have friends or family able to help.

We encourage residents to use their existing networks where possible.

The dispatchers in each area filter the requests and pass the requests that have been accepted on to their group of volunteers – *please see workflow diagram for more information.*

We are envisaging that the residents will ask for help for the following:

- Shopping / collecting shopping
- Collecting medication at the pharmacy / dispensary
- Having a friendly chat to combat isolation
- Other services e.g. walking the dog if unwell, taking the bins out, posting mail, etc.

Ethical guidelines

1. As a volunteer group, we are **not associated with or endorsing any specific business**. The decision to support a local business has to be a personal choice from those who choose to use them. We appreciate how hard it is for small businesses at present and to offer them our support, we gather the list of offers from local shops and businesses in Rye and surrounding area on a daily basis and share it on our website at <https://www.ryemutualaid.org/local-offers>. Any shop or business wishing to be added can send us an email at ryemutualaid@yahoo.com

2. Our dispatchers will assess the suitability of requests being received via our central phone number. We are here to **provide emergency support first and foremost**. This includes the collection of prescriptions and ESSENTIAL items such as food. Social support such as a friendly phone call. Volunteers should not be purchasing expensive non-essential items. We will only post requests that we have assessed as appropriate.

3. The health and safety of volunteers is our priority. We aim to not take additional trips out at a time when we are being asked to socially distance. e.g. gather collecting prescriptions once a day per area. We will not give volunteers lengthy and expensive shopping lists.

4. Our work falls into the '**Use caution / Limit**' category and we would like to urge volunteers to bear in mind the aggravating factors and higher risks categories in order to decide what :

Age, in particular 70+
Being male
Smoking
Obesity
Diabetes
High blood pressure
Heart or lung conditions
Immune pb incl. chemotherapy

5. The recipients of our help are already incredibly grateful. They may try to offer you a gift or to 'keep the change'. As hard as this is, **we cannot accept any gifts** from those who we are helping. For those wishing to contribute to our work, they can **donate at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ryemutualaid**