



R B F & R S

news release

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Are You Missing Out?

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS), along with partner organisations including Sovereign Housing and the Pensions Service, will be at Sainsbury's in Calcot on Thursday 25th September from 10am – 4pm to provide shoppers with information about the Safe at Home scheme.

Safe at Home is a new referral scheme, which has been created to ensure that vulnerable people don't miss out on any of the services or benefits available to them. The scheme is run by RBFRS in partnership with other key local organisations, including West Berkshire Council, Thames Valley Police, the Pension Service and Berkshire West Primary Care Trust.

The idea is simple: when a member of a partner organisation makes a home visit they will also take the opportunity to guide the occupier through a short form, listing the services on offer from the other participating organisations. Services available include Home Fire Safety Checks, crime reduction advice, Warm Front home improvement grants, smoking cessation services and attendance allowance. If the occupier is interested in finding out more about any of the services, the referral form will be passed to the appropriate organisation who will contact the resident directly.

Safe at Home is currently running as a pilot scheme in the Calcot area but RBFRS is aiming to roll it out across West Berkshire in the near future.

Paula Smith, RBFRS Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Berkshire, who is co-ordinating Safe at Home, said: "The aim of the scheme is to ensure that people receive all the services they are entitled to, helping to keep them safe in their own homes. By working in partnership with other organisations, we can offer a convenient, 'one stop shop' approach.

"We would like to thank Sainsbury's for their support and for kindly allowing us to hold the information event on their premises."

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Richard Perry, Store Manager at Sainsbury's, said: "I am very happy to be able to accommodate the community safety bus. Sainsbury's is committed to making a positive difference to the local community and we are sure that our customers will take advantage of this service."

To find out more about Safe at Home, visit the RBFRS Community Safety bus, which will be parked near the glass foyer at Sainsbury's in Calcot on Thursday.

ENDS