

### **New helpline to support vulnerable Islanders launched**

**A new helpline number is now available to support the Island's most vulnerable residents affected by the coronavirus (Covid-19) self-isolation measures.**

**People who do not have a local network of friends or family to support them while they are self-isolating or social distancing can call (01983) 823600 (seven days a week, 9am-5pm).**

**The helpline has been put in place by the Isle of Wight Council in partnership with the Island's voluntary networks, including Community Action Isle of Wight, Citizens Advice Isle of Wight and Age UK Isle of Wight, to support those who meet the coronavirus 'vulnerable' criteria.**

**Mike Bulpitt, from Community Action Isle of Wight, said: "We are working together to make it as simple and easy for people who need help and support to get hold of someone who can help.**

**"Initially we want to make sure that people have access to groceries and medications to keep them safe and supported during this uncertain time.**

**"We have a large network of caring volunteers between us and many more people have shown an interest in volunteering to help those in need over the past couple of weeks.**

**"Thanks to everyone who has come forward to offer help – including those who responded to the Isle of Wight Coronavirus Community Help group on Facebook, who we are working alongside."**