

## Ageing Successfully In Oxfordshire

Please tick one box below to indicate the District/City service you are providing information on. Please complete a separate form for each service.

- |                                   |                                     |                 |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Health Promotion                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Housing         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recreation Activities             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | DFGs            | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteering                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Information     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Local Transport                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Benefits Advice | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Support for Older People's Groups |                                     |                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### What organisations are your partners in delivery and how?

**Annual Electric Blanket testing:** 2 days in each district council area testing carried out in September/October each year. Aimed at older people, especially the vulnerable, who may be on low incomes.

Partners: Oxfordshire Trading Standards, all 5 Oxfordshire District Councils.

### What are you achieving? What are the outcomes?

Ensuring that older people remain warm in winter at night.

Unsafe electric blankets are taken out of service. Blankets that can be repaired are repaired on site and made safe to use. Table below shows the results across the county for the last 10 years:

Year	No Blankets tested	Blankets failed	% Failures
1999	913	346	37.8
2000	805	378	46.9
2001	793	325	40.9
2002	951	338	35.5
2003	846	333	39.3
2004	708	225	31.7
2005	689	239	34.6
2006	789	315	39.9
2007	678	241	35.5
2008	827	243	29.3

People whose blanket fails are offered either a new replacement, or a voucher to help them purchase a new blanket at approximately half price.

### What plans do you have to develop the service?

Due to the huge demand for the service, this year, 2009, we are adding an extra day per local authority e.g. Cherwell will be offering testing in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

The steering group is investigating the possibility of training fire service staff to provide the testing rather than as at the moment employing a company to undertake the testing for us. This would be a considerable financial saving.

### What joint initiatives or other improvements would you like to see?

See last paragraph above. The financial saving would enable more new blankets to be purchased to ensure that those in financial difficulty can have their faulty blanket replaced with a new one.

Council: Cherwell District Council .....

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