



News Release

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IF IN DOUBT - KEEP THEM OUT

WIGAN Council and local Police have joined forces in an initiative aimed at keeping elderly people safe in their homes.



Environmental Health staff who visit residents in their homes will in future carry a small laminated card which reminds them to use the visit as an opportunity to check security with householders.

The card carries four important questions...

- Was a safety chain fitted?
- Did the householder use it?
- Were you asked for your identification?
- Was it examined?

(Pictured are builder Colin Hunter, Karen Spencer team Leader for the Care and Repair organisation, and Robin Abraham, Senior Technical Officer with Wigan MBC Environmental Health department.)

The visiting officer will then advise the householder to use the Safety Chain Code with the theme IF IN DOUBT - KEEP THEM OUT.

The other side of the card carries useful telephone numbers of organisations that can give advice and help about safety and security, such as Age Concern, Victim Support, Greater Manchester Police, Wigan Council's Careline, and Care and Repair.

The Wigan Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety, Deputy Leader Tom Sherratt, commented; " This is an excellent initiative by our Environmental Health staff, and one which we hope in time to be able to extend to all Council officers who regularly visit elderly people in their homes. It is another example of our successful partnership, especially with local Police. We are quite determined to do everything possible to safeguard our residents, particularly the elderly and the vulnerable."

ENDS.

Note to Editors.

For further information contact Ashley Crumbley on 01942 827072. Newspaper editors should feel free to use the enclosed photograph of a door chain being fitted to a local home.