

## **EHDC - New helpline launched for vulnerable people**

A new helpline has been launched for frail and vulnerable residents to call if they need help during the coronavirus pandemic.

East Hampshire District Council has joined forces with Hampshire County Council, voluntary groups and other district and boroughs across the county to set up the Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline.

The line can be used by residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

The number - 0333 370 4000 – will be manned seven days a week, from 9am-5pm.

It is available only for Hampshire residents, while those in Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight have alternative arrangements.

As well as providing advice and information the call centre will co-ordinate requests for practical help, passing them through to the appropriate local authority.

EHDC Leader, Cllr Richard Millard, said: “Help us help those most in need in our community. If you, or someone you know, is struggling to cope during the coronavirus outbreak, please use this number and we will help.

“The more we work together the better we will come through this crisis and the stronger we will bounce back afterwards.”