

Reg. Charity No 265562

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## Bathing Services

Age Concern operate several different assisted bathing schemes which provides a kind and safe assistance for the bathing of elderly or disabled persons by experienced nurses at low cost, either in their own home, in a sheltered housing complex or at an Age Concern Day Centre.

### **Domiciliary Bathing.**

This service provides two kind and experienced Age Concern bathing nurses calling at a client's home once per week from Monday to Friday, between 8.30 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., to help them bath or wash themselves. The service does not currently operate at weekends or on Bank Holidays and covers the whole of the Dartford & Gravesham area. The service is available to any client who does not attend an Age Concern Day Centre that has a bathing provision; as such Day Centre bathing services is more economical to operate. Whilst we would endeavour to accommodate any preference of the client to the time and day of the week they are bathed, as the service is very busy and covers a large area, the client's choice may be limited to availability of service. The time and day of the week arranged would normally occur every week, except occasionally when it may be necessary to amend the time to accommodate other clients. Clients pay a contribution to the bathing nurses, see Age Concern Information Sheet No. 25) at the time the service is given and a receipt can be issued if required. All other costs are borne by Age Concern and Social Services. Referrals for this service may be made by the client themselves, or by a person on their behalf, and should be made to Rural Age Concern Darent Valley at the address or telephone number given at the top of this information sheet. Various personal information will be required, such as client's name, address, telephone number, details of the next of kin, details of the client's doctor, details of mobility and any medication, all of which is treated in strict confidence. Following a referral, the client will receive a letter from us confirming the referral and stating that if vacancies exist that they will be contacted shortly for service arrangements to be made and, if no vacancies exist, that they will be placed on a short waiting list and contacted as soon as a vacancy becomes available. One Age Concern group on behalf of all the five local Age Concern groups manages the service. The bathing nurses can assist with bathing or washing, dressing or undressing and limited medical dressings. Any Bathing Aids considered advisable can be supplied privately or arranged by Social Services, the bathing nurses, or supplied under the RACDV Disabled Aids Loan Scheme. Clients may use this service for as long as they wish and they simply advise the nurses or telephone Age Concern if and when they wish to end the service.

### **Parker Bath Scheme, Meeting Point, Swanley**

This scheme provides an assisted bathing service for the elderly and disabled by a kind bathing nurse in a specially designed and constructed Disabled Access Parker Bath at the Meeting Point Day Centre at 37 High Street, Swanley. Clients can either attend the Day Centre or come in just for the assisted bath, and the service operates Monday to Friday or as required, normally between 8.00 a.m. and 1 p.m. The service is currently not available at weekends or on Bank Holidays. The Parker Bath is constructed to allow very frail or disabled clients to be able to get into the bath reasonably easily, to transfer from a wheelchair if necessary, and sit comfortably in the bath, whilst being assisted or washed by the nurse. The nurse will assist as required with the client dressing and undressing and clients may wish to have a clean set of clothing for after their bath. The bath is located in a special private bathing room, connected to the Day Centre by an internal corridor. Day Centre Clients pay a contribution to the nurse at the time of the service being given, with a small surcharge applied to non Day Centre clients. See Information Sheet 25 for details of current contributions. Age Concern bears all remaining costs. The contribution covers all bathing requisites like staff time, hot water, special bath facilities, towels, soap, bubble bath and talcum powder which are supplied by the bathing nurse. Clients are welcome to supply and use their own towels and requisites if they wish. The bathing nurse may be able to cover other small requirements like medical dressings, nail clipping, hair washing/brushing, etc, for which no charge is made. The free use of wheelchairs, walking frames, walking sticks and many other disabled aids are available on site if required. The client, or a person on behalf of the client makes referrals, to the Age Concern office whose address and telephone is shown at the top of this information sheet. As the service is popular, waiting lists may

be in operation on some days. Other services available are Lunches, Hairdressing, Chiropody, Impaired Hearing Clinic, Advice & information, and Transport.

### **Parker Bath Scheme, White Oak Court, Swanley**

This scheme provides an assisted bathing service to elderly and disabled clients, resident in White Oak Court Sheltered Housing Complex, in a specially constructed Parker Bath by an Age Concern Bathing Nurse. The service operates every week day, subject to demand, not on Bank Holidays, normally between 7.30 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. The Parker Bath allows very frail and disabled clients to get into the bath easily, and sit back comfortably in the bath whilst being washed. The nurse will help as required with the client dressing and undressing and clients may wish to have a clean set of clothing with them for after their bath. Clients pay a contribution to the bathing nurse at the time the service is given and this includes all staff time, hot water, bathing facilities, bathing requisites like towels, soap, talcum powder, bubble bath, etc. See Information Sheet 25 for details of current contributions. Age Concern bears all remaining costs. The bathing nurse may have time and ability to attend to small other matters like hair washing/brushing, nail clipping, medical dressings, etc. The Parker Bath is located in a special private bathing room on the ground floor, and a lift and wheelchairs are freely available for clients who require these. Referrals are made by the client, or person on their behalf, to the Age Concern office, the bathing nurse, or the warden at the sheltered housing complex, and are subject to vacancies being available.

### **Assisted Bathing Scheme, Cottage Day Centre, Fawkham**

This scheme provides an assisted bathing service to elderly and disabled clients by a Care Assistant at the Age Concern Day Centre at Scratchers Lane, Fawkham, DA3 8PU. Bathing is in a conventional bath with a manually powered rising and swivel chair to assist less mobile clients into and out of the bath – a Walk In bath is pending installation. All Day Centre clients can avail themselves of this service as can clients who do not attend the day Centre. Should a client like to apply for this service, it may be possible also to register them for Day Centre attendance if they wish. Bath Boards and Bath Seats are also available if required. The bath is in a warm private room in the day Centre and is available Mondays to Fridays between 9.00 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.. The service is not available at weekends or Bank Holidays. Clients pay a contribution to the care assistant at the time the service is given and Age Concern bears all other costs. See Information Sheet 25 for details of current contributions, which cover staff time, hot water, bathing facilities, and all bathing requisites such as towels, soap, bubble bath and talcum powder, but clients can provide their own requisites if they prefer. Assistance will be given to clients with dressing and undressing and clients may wish to have a clean set of clothing with them for after their bath. The care assistant may have the time and ability to attend to other small matters like hair washing/brushing, nail clipping, medical dressings, etc. Referrals are made by the client themselves, or a person or agency on behalf of the client, to the Age Concern office whose details are at top of page one, or to the day Centre Supervisor at the Cottage Day Centre on 01474 879473. Other services such as Hairdressing, Chiropody, Impaired Hearing clinics, Opticians clinic, Social activities, Hot home cooked lunches and Advice/Information services are also available at this Day Centre.

### **General Information**

Should any elderly or disabled client residing in our area feel that they can manage to bath themselves at home, or are experiencing increasing difficulties in bathing themselves, various disabled aids to assist, like bath seats, bath boards, anti slips mats, tap turners, and other aids, are available for free loan under our Disabled Equipment Loans Service, full details of which are available on Age Concern Information Sheet No 9, available free from the Age Concern office. This Disabled Aids Service is available to clients outside of our area, at a small surcharge.

Assistance may be available from the Local Authority/Social Services/Housing Associations to help and assist in advising and converting your existing bathroom into a facility that you may more easily manage.

Reliable and qualified low cost Hairdressers, Chiropodists & free Impaired Hearing services can normally be arranged to visit genuine housebound clients in our area at their home for treatment. Age Concern operates a confidential mail order service for incontinence care products, leaflets available from the Age Concern office, or can be posted on request.

Rural Age Concern Darent Valley holds Public Liability and Legal Expenses Insurances which cover many eventualities but owing to the complex nature of our service delivery, whilst every care is taken we cannot accept responsibility for any incidents that may occur which is not protected by such insurances. Clients register for this service, and are accepted by Age Concern, on the strict condition that they acknowledge and agree to this position.