

VULNERABILITY

IN RURAL AREAS

We have been attempting to take an overview position as to who should do what on this particular item which has been identified as really important work at a time when the average age of the rural population becomes statistically older in every year going by.

The following is a discussion document with thoughts as to what may be attempted by the CIC and what may RSN may possibly concentrate on. A Similar report is going to the RSN meeting next Monday, the 30th of January.

RURAL ENGLAND

- An Essential Services Rural Vulnerability Group (ESRVG). (n.b. The Utility Companies tend to call the process 'safeguarding') There might be three meetings a year- one possibly for company Chief Executives or their like who would look at the legislative position relating to this area.
- An annual paper on vulnerability as prescribed by the ESRVG Group would be undertaken by Rural England researchers.
- A special area of the www.RuralEngland.org website would be set up and this would be dedicated to this area of work
- The Rural Vulnerability Service- although produced as a RSN bulletin once every 3 weeks it is on the Rural England Work Plan (when RE finance allows) to seek to expand its dedicated research potential in its three topic areas of Broadband, Fuel Poverty and Transport),

JOINT WORK

- A special meeting every two years bringing together utility operators and local authorities
- Statistic information specifically on this subject issued every six months to both the ESG and any Councillor Social Care and Rural Vulnerability Group (Dan Worth)

RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

- A Parliamentary Vulnerability Day.
- ? A Parliamentary Campaign Group- should we achieve sufficient momentum in parliament to do this.
- Significant work to seek involvement with community councils, parish councils, church councils, local facilities funded by the ESG membership fees (this can only be done if sufficient organisations support the relevant part of the ESG.)
- Should the two Councillor Social Care meetings placed in our meetings programme this year (when the Rural Assembly is running) be expanded to also include Rural Vulnerability (such change would need to be decided by the Executive on the 9th of January) This would give us a meeting of Councillors in the RSN

side of the equation as well as the ESRVG on the Rural England side of the equation.

- Do we set up a subgroup of the Community Group to cover Social Care Organisations who operate care facilities?
Presumably if so such a group lies on this side of the equation
- The Rural Vulnerability Service- basically a RE service (with support From Calor) which RSN buys into and circulates to its members. Rural England have in their projects programme the improvement of this service.