

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER SCHEME <https://localgiving.org/charity/rsvpnortheast/>

RSVP North East is affiliated to the national RSVP scheme run by Volunteering Matters Registered charity number 291222. For this projects we are working in partnership with Supportive, another local charity.

We are autonomous with our own bank account. We have to fund raise for our costs.

We have been running the volunteer driving scheme in the Co Durham area since 2003. The funding ceased from Durham County Council in 2016, and we are now working with funding from the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's). However, this does not cover all the costs. We have registered 2,500 patients since 2016 and with a series of advertising the scheme, endeavour that to increase dramatically.

Many of the patients are based in your Parish and use the service of the local surgery, we work with all the surgeries in Co Durham and all hospitals and clinics in the North East.

The scheme gives housebound people the ability to get to doctor's appointments and we now also do hospital journeys, as many people are now not eligible for PTS who once were.

This project means that Doctors are not called out on home visits. Elderly patients can see the doctor without feeling they need a house call, therefore, seeking treatment earlier. An evaluation of the scheme showed reduced house calls and patients seeking medical intervention much earlier. The patient has contact with the volunteer who can report back on their welfare to appropriate agencies. For an example if an old person is scared to put their heating on for fear of large fuel bills our volunteer could pass on their information to the warm front team.

Durham has an aging population so really does benefit from this endeavour.

All our volunteers that come into contact with vulnerable or young people are DBS checked through Volunteering Matters.

Our volunteers benefit from their efforts, as volunteering improves an individuals self esteem, and builds on a once sense of strong community spirit.

The volunteers use their own vehicles and give their time freely. We give a mileage allowance of 45p per mile to the volunteer.

I have also enclosed a leaflet, if you could possible advertise in your area for new drivers and also to encourage patients to register for our scheme.