

May I introduce myself, I am Nigel Newberry and I work for Age Concern Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly.

Together with Digital Outreach we aim to circulate information concerning the digital switchover next year to groups and individuals who are eligible for the Switchover Help Scheme and those who help and support eligible people.

We will be offering training on the scheme for volunteers and workers with support groups and organisations and distributing leaflets giving information on the Switchover and the Switchover Help Scheme.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up to help eligible older and disabled people to make the change to digital on one of their TV sets.

They are eligible if they are aged 75 or over, get or could get, disability living allowance, attendance or constant attendance allowance or mobility supplement, or if they are registered blind or partially sighted.

For a one-off payment of £40, they will be offered easy-to-use Freeview equipment to convert one television set, installation of that equipment, a demonstration of how it works and someone to call for help while they are getting used to it.

If it's needed to make the new equipment work, the Help Scheme will fit a new aerial where they can.

This service is free for people who are eligible and also receive pension credit, income support or income based jobseekers allowance.

Between November and next spring every eligible person in the ITV West Country region will get a letter and an application pack from the Switchover Help Scheme. They will receive their pack in plenty of time to get help before switchover.

This options pack will invite people to apply for the help available. It sets out the standard offer which is available for £40 or free, as well as offering a range of other ways to go digital with the Help Scheme.

The standard offer is for an easy-to-use Freeview set top box to convert one TV set. It can be delivered to the eligible person's home, or they can choose to have it fully installed. Eligible people unable to receive TV through an aerial after switchover will be offered a freesat satellite system instead.

If you would like further information or have any questions on the Switchover Help Scheme, the training or circulation of information please contact me via e-mail, [nigel@ageconcerncornwall.org.uk](mailto:nigel@ageconcerncornwall.org.uk) or telephone 01872266388.

Nigel Newberry

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