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NEWS

Appeal for volunteers to help lonely patients

Vicky Angear

vicky.angear@archant.co.uk

Caring volunteers are looking for more people to join their ranks to help those who are isolated or need support.

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme runs from Nailsea Family Practice, at Tower House Medical Centre, and was set up to assist vulnerable members of the community.

Peter Coxell, who joined the group in January, said: "The main idea is to get people back into the community because they are sitting alone at home and they just want company."

"The volunteers do shopping for them, pick up prescriptions, and take them out for a coffee."

"Our ultimate target is to get them out into the community where they can mix and mingle with people in the same position. I love it and find it really rewarding."

People are referred to the volunteers by doctors at the surgery, but Peter is now trying to get Nailsea and Backwell Medical Centre, in



■ Victor Rawlings and Peter Coxell who help with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programme. Picture: MARK ATHERTON

Brockway, onboard so more people can be helped.

Carole Brooke, practice manager at Nailsea Family Practice, said: "We are delighted to be working alongside RSVP."

"It provides a great service to patients who might not see many people throughout the week."

"We are keen to promote the holistic wellbeing of patients and that includes being involved in the community and having regular social interaction."

■ Find out more about the service from the surgery's reception desk.

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