

Help is at hand to switch to digital TV

TV is changing. In 2011 the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the Anglia region and replaced with a digital TV signal. This is not a concern for most people but some may find it harder to make the switch than others.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the Government and is run by the BBC. Its purpose is to make digital TV easy for older and disabled people by converting one of their televisions to digital in the run-up to digital TV switchover in their region.

People living in the Suffolk area served by the Ipswich Stoke transmitter will begin to switch on 06 July 2011.

What does the Help Scheme do?

The Switchover Help Scheme aims to reach out to all eligible people, and ensure that those who need our help get it, so that no-one eligible need be left behind without access to television after switchover.

People are eligible for help if they are:

- aged 75 or over,
- have lived in a care home for six months or more,
- get or could get, disability living allowance,
- attendance or constant attendance allowance, or mobility supplement,
- Or if they are registered blind or partially sighted.

What's next?

Most people will be asked to contribute £40 towards the help. The service is free for people who are eligible and also get pension credit, income support, income-based jobseekers allowance or employment and support allowance.

In the run-up to switchover, every eligible person receives a Switchover Help Scheme information pack explaining the options for switching to digital.

In the meantime, if you want more information for yourself or someone you know, please log onto www.helpscheme.co.uk

Where can I get face-to-face advice on switchover?

Digital UK has been working closely with charities to organise local advice points during switchover. These will be staffed by trained volunteers and are open to everyone. To find out where your local advice point or roadshow will be, visit digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 50 50 50.