

Friday 12 August 2016

## **SOUTHERN WATER SALUTES SSAFA ST.VINCENT'S**

***Water Company to donate thousands of pounds to help support SSAFA St. Vincent's Residential Care home on the Isle of Wight.***

Southern Water announced today that it has pledged £10,000 to the award-winning St. Vincent's Residential Care Home in Ryde on the Isle of Wight, run by SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity.

The funds will be used to refurbish two of the residents' specialised bathrooms, as part of the charity's new, year long partnership with the water company.

**Sharon Atter, SSAFA St. Vincent's Residential Care Home manager says:** *"The upkeep and modernisation of any residential care home is essential to cater for the evolving needs of our elderly clients. These generous funds from Southern Water will completely re-fit two of our bathrooms at SSAFA St. Vincent's, ensuring the privacy and dignity of our residents and making their lives more comfortable. As well as the specialised equipment, Southern Water will also fit efficiency devices that will help save the home money and water."*

SSAFA was chosen by Southern Water employees who will also be lending their time and skills volunteering at St. Vincent's in 2016/17.

SSAFA is the oldest tri-service national military charity in the UK and its network of around 7,000 volunteers at 92 branches across the UK and overseas which support some 60,000 serving personnel, reservists, veterans and their families each year.

**Southern Water's Emma Spicer-Howard sat on the judging panel that decided the new charity partners. She said:** *"It is wonderful to be able to support this vital charity which provides support to veterans and their families in the local community.*

*"We chose SSAFA and its St Vincent's Residential Care home bathroom refurbishments as this is a fantastic organisation that helps give pride and dignity to*

*all residents at its care homes. I am really proud to be able play a part in helping this charity and we look forward to supporting them over the coming year.”*

The water company recently announced it will be offering four annual regional grants to charities across Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Kent. The money will fund a specific project that can be completed within a year.

The regional charities were chosen by Southern Water employees, who will also be lending their time and skills volunteering to help their local projects.

### **About SSAFA St. Vincent’s**

SSAFA St. Vincent’s Residential Care Home is home to former servicemen and women of all ranks and widows of servicemen - with its oldest resident aged 93.

It is set in its own spacious grounds, is fully accessible, comfortable and well equipped. The staff are there to make sure that the residents get the care and support they need to enjoy independent life to the full.

In addition to the 25 bedrooms, the facilities include two large lounges and a reception room with an open fireplace for residents to entertain guests in, a large dining room with home-cooked meals, a tea bar, a residents information facility, an activities room, spacious landscaped gardens and in the grounds are purpose-built bungalows and apartments for SSAFA beneficiaries who require level-access living.

There is regular entertainment in the home including games, sing-alongs and quizzes. There is also a plentiful supply of books, DVD's and games. Residents are also encouraged and helped to pursue their own hobbies and interests at St Vincent’s and to visit nearby shops, services, the library in Ryde and additional frequent outings in the home's minibus.

### **ENDS**

#### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Southern Water:**

- For further information on Southern Water's new charity partners or further images please contact the media team on: 01903 272 230.
- The charities were selected following a staff vote, shortlisted charities presented to the charity committee including representatives from our directorates and our supply chain.
- For a full list of Southern Water's new charity partners, please visit - [www.southernwater.co.uk/charities](http://www.southernwater.co.uk/charities)

- For more information on our charity work, please contact the Community Engagement Team on [community@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:community@southernwater.co.uk)

### **About SSAFA**

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity (formerly known as the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen & Families Association), provides lifelong support to anyone who is currently serving or has ever served in the Royal Navy, British Army or Royal Air Force, including reservists, and their families.

Each year, our professional staff and network of more than 7,000 volunteers help some 60,000 people, ranging from World War Two veterans to the families of young servicemen and women wounded or killed in Afghanistan. For more information visit [www.ssafa.org.uk](http://www.ssafa.org.uk) or follow us on Twitter: @SSAFA.

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