

- Partners in Progress -

BUSINESSline Briefing

South Warwickshire Business Partnership

www.swbp.org.uk

Clippings of interest to businesses and organisations operating within the districts of Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick

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Rural Support Network

From April this year each of the five counties in the West Midlands will be individually responsible for providing the Network's valuable services and the central regional office, currently based at Harper Adams University College in Shropshire, will close.

The [Rural Support Network](#), set up over 12 years ago, is a small charity which provides free and confidential support to individuals and families in crisis in the rural community, aiming to reduce the problem of isolation and relieve rural stress in the West Midlands as well as raising awareness of the issues.

Users of the service will still be able to benefit from the same confidential help from trained volunteers but they will now have to contact their individual county.

The Right Reverend John Oliver, chairman of the Rural Support Network said: "Farming is going through an extended period of radical change and the need for support, guidance and friendship is likely to grow rather than diminish in the next few years. It is therefore vital that the county teams of volunteers and coordinators continue in existence and share their experience and best practice with neighbouring groups."

Volunteers are available in Warwickshire to provide confidential help and advice to those who need it: contact 01327 260280.

There is also a national Farm Crisis Network Helpline number, 07002 326 326, for emergency calls.