

---

**Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network**

---

June 14, 2010

## **Protecting seniors from elder abuse**

As communities across the globe observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, local seniors continue to be the preyed upon in Windsor/Essex. From July, 2009 to March, 2010, over 200 older adults received the support of a social worker from Citizen Advocacy's Crisis Intervention program regarding their elder abuse case.

The program, as well as partnership programs at Family Service Kent and Lambton Elderly Outreach, received funding through the Erie St. Clair Local Health Integration Network's (ESC LHINs) Aging at Home Strategy to enhance or establish intervention services. The services are helping protect seniors from abuse and neglect.

The programs are staffed by social workers who support older adults in resolving a problem or conflict, end incidence of elder abuse and/or access other community supports and services.

Citizen Advocacy has reported that many of the cases seen in the past year are instances of financial abuse, where older adult may be at risk of losing their home or rental unit because of lack of payment. Neglect has also been identified where older adults have been left without support from family. In these cases, the Social Worker will help the older adult to determine what has happened, put into place steps to safeguard the client and their assets, establish goals and ensures that those goals are met.

For more information on the Aging at Home Strategy, visit [www.eriestclairhin.on.ca](http://www.eriestclairhin.on.ca).