

The Consell de Formentera announces that March will come with a new support service for vulnerable individuals, the elderly, dependent persons and female victims of gender violence who live in remote corners of Formentera. Officers on the Civil Guard's ROCA team will be charged with making periodic home-visits to islanders who requested the service and registered consent with Formentera Social Welfare Department.

The programme featured in discussion earlier in the week when deputy premiere and elderly department chief Ana Juan met with FSWD chair Rafael Ramírez, interior chief Josep Marí, and Captain Francisco Javier López Sacido and Lieutenant Andrés García Valle of the Civil Guard.

Islanders taking part in the programme will continue receiving telephone check-ins from Consell staff in addition to the visits from the Civil Guard. "It's about making our over-65s feel safer", insisted Ramírez, who said help from FSWD and the local interior department were also crucial parts of the equation: the former shares its register of vulnerable islanders, and latter provides relevant GPS coordinates so law enforcement officers can locate programme participants. Ramírez praised the Civil Guard's collaboration, asserting it "brings local government that much closer to islanders". Captain López, for his part, described ongoing cooperation between the Consell and Civil Guard as "magnificent".

Participants can expect frequent visits during Civil Guard officers' once-monthly weeklong stays on Formentera, which are scheduled to start in March. Officers will take advantage of visits to share safety tips as well, like details about the Spanish interior ministry's AlertCops app to report emergencies quickly and easily. The Civil Guard's ROCA team is specifically tasked with promoting safety in rural areas.

Throughout February, the Consell's family specialists who have carried out the telephone check-ins till now will be making a list of islanders keen to participate.

The telephone support service of the Consell de Formentera is for over-65 islanders not otherwise receiving FSWD services. It began in March amid stay-at-home orders and resumed

in December.

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