



Blackburn with Darwen  
**carers service**

## Dementia and Mobility

### The Carers Service assessment identified:

- John\* who was in his 50's, was working and living on his own. He had been supporting his dad, who lived locally, due to him having dementia. As his dad's illness had recently got a lot worse, he was finding it very difficult to manage on his own. Furthermore, dad was experiencing mobility issues of which John was very concerned about him falling or hurting himself. John had therefore made a decision to give his job up and move in with dad so that he could look after him and provide all round care. John also helped his daughter out with his grandchild when he could due to her needing his support with childcare issues
- The main issue for John was that his finances needed sorting out as he had no money coming in. He had been advised that as he had given his job up he would not be entitled to benefits for several weeks. Dad was receiving his state retirement pension but no other benefits at this time, and if John was to receive Carers Allowance for looking after his dad, his dad would need to apply for Attendance Allowance.
- John also wanted to learn more around Dementia as he was finding it all very daunting and was feeling very vulnerable and alone
- Neither dad nor John had had a community care or statutory carers assessment

### Co-ordinated support offered:

- Explained about the processes for Social Services statutory assessments for carer and his dad, including respite vouchers and day care, so that he is informed and knows what to do to receive early help if he starts to feel he needs more support (preventing issues becoming a crisis by seeking early support).
- Explained about local services - Age UK services to support his dad; gave information around Care Network and informed of local authority run service DASH (Decent And Safe Homes) for handy person service
- Referred to Social Services for an Occupational Therapist Assessment
- Referred to Alzheimer's Society for a Dementia Adviser to visit
- Referred to Carers Service benefits adviser

### Outcomes for carer:

- An OT assessed and arranged for Donald to have grab rails around his shower and this gave Donald more confidence to tend to his personal care independently resulting in keeping Donald's dignity intact and improving his well-being.
- John also felt more informed about the services in his area.
- The Dementia Adviser gave John all the information needed to keep him well informed and also advised him of the monthly dementia meetings and courses run by the Alzheimers at the Carers Service.

- Benefits adviser assisted with the Attendance Allowance claim form, of which was successful, therefore enabling John to apply for Carers Allowance which would be topped up by Income Support. All benefit claims were successful, providing the family with an extra £165.00 per week
- Information from the dementia adviser provided John with the knowledge and understanding around dementia that he believes will enable him to care with confidence and will improve his overall caring relationship with his dad
- John said that he felt that he had been supported well and was happy to know that he can ring the Blackburn and Darwen Service anytime if he needs us.

### What could the long term savings be because of this support:

- Aids around the home prevented cared for from the risk of a fall therefore reduced the risk of a hospital admission
- Income via support from Carers Service Benefits Advisor provided carer with the finances needed to enable him to continue with his caring role therefore reducing the risk of cared for entering into residential care.
- John's own well-being improved which reduced the risk of potential of him having any form of breakdown
- If support for John had not been forthcoming he may have had to move back out of dad's home, of which would have had an impact upon housing.

\*Name changed

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