



Blackburn with Darwen

**carers service**

## Learning Disability

### **The Carers Service assessment identified:**

- Carer is caring for daughter who has profound physical and learning disabilities, is wheelchair bound and needs 24 hour care
- Due to the level of care required by her daughter the carer felt run down and in need of respite. She had contacted Children's Services and an assessment had been carried out two months prior to my visit but the family were still waiting for the outcome of this
- The hoist in the bathroom had been broken for a while of which the family were still waiting for somebody to fix it. Carer explained that moving and handling her daughter without the hoist was having an impact on her own health
- Carer herself has health issues including diabetes, of which she is on insulin injections
- Carer felt that the whole process was taking a long time and she needed help and support with immediate effect.

### **Co-ordinated support offered:**

- Contact was made with the social worker who had carried out the assessment, with a request that the case be looked at as a matter of urgency due to the impact it was having on the carer and the family as a whole
- A joint home visit was arranged between the carers service and the social worker to ensure any language issues did not create a barrier to support. The carer was therefore able to explain her situation in detail and get across her own needs, wishes and feelings
- Following on from this meeting the social worker made a referral to Occupational therapy in regards to the faulty hoist
- Arrangements were made for carer and cared for to visit Apple Trees to look at possible respite. Mum also requested help and support for weekends and during school holidays, whereby the family were provided with information on local activities and services
- Carer accessed massage sessions and was assisted in applying for a Carers respite grant so that she could have a break from her intensive caring role.

### **Outcomes for carer:**

- Through the statutory assessment the social worker was able to identify a few hours 1-1 support each week for the carers daughter – this will enable the daughter to access activities within the community and provide much needed respite for the carer

- Carer now also has information on other activities and services that she can access and undertake with her daughter using monies already being received via DLA
- Hoist was repaired
- The joint effort between services enabled the carer to have the necessary help and support with her caring role. She was able to put across her views and she felt more positive about Children's services and the support they provided; this was important because it helped the carer to build a positive long term working relationship with the social worker. The carer said that factors such as Knowing that she didn't have to 'battle' on her own; the hoist having been repaired, and access to massage and respite breaks had hugely alleviated the physical and emotional strain on her, and her family, and given her peace of mind that she can continue positively in her caring role.

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

- The relevant services being put in place have potentially prevented any further decline in the carers own health, which, as a result, means she is now able to continue in her role as the main carer for her daughter, without the need of a much costlier care package.

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