

# Facilitating new care and support



For many people, accepting paid support is a big step. Packages of care, involving a number of carers, can put people off and be a barrier to them receiving the right support. Using equipment to support complex moving and handling procedures, can reduce the number of carers required. Consequently people can be more willing to accept support.



Sara, age 58, has advanced Multiple Sclerosis with limited movements in her limbs. She lives with her husband Ed who has to lift her to support her personal care. Ed has recently begun to struggle lifting Sara and the lifting was also endangering Ed's back. Sara and Ed have never had homecare services before and therefore were reluctant to have homecare services to support them.

The team came to assess Sara and were able to provide equipment to support moving and handling. Through the use of a gantry hoist and chair slings, it was possible to offer a single worker support to Sara and Ed. They were more willing to engage in this type of support and accepted this package of care.



This process gave people the opportunity to accept support on their terms and in line with their wishes.

# Working with family carers



Introducing new moving and handling aids can support family carers to be more involved as they are able to do more for the person they care for. It also encourages support workers to further engage with family carers.



When discharged from hospital, John, age 57, was initially offered a package of care which included two support workers visiting him 3 times a day.

Through the use of a new assessment process and the deployment of new equipment, this was reduced to a single support worker who made three visits on three days per week.

Family members were able to support John the rest of the time by using the new equipment.



The new equipment offered flexibility in terms of formal and informal support working together to provide care for John.

# Increasing flexibility



The requirement for two carers supporting one person can reduce flexibility of support times as any changes need to consider the schedules of two carers.

Stewart, is 93 and lives alone in a first floor flat in sheltered housing accommodation. He has macular degeneration, is hearing impaired and painful right knee which gives way at times.

Homecare support was provided four times a day by two support workers carers. There was also a friend visiting two hours weekly to support Stewart with shopping and housework. This meant that there were a lot of people coming through the house, something that Stewart disliked.

Following a moving and handling assessment, a new equipment was issued and the lunch and tea time support was reduced to a single carer.



With only a single carer supporting Stewart he now feels that he has more control over his care and when people come in.

