

Dignity in Care factsheet

June 2010

Practical assistance in practice

- Make use of personal budgets to provide people with the help they want and need.
- Help people to maintain their living environment to the standards that they want.
- Tap into or develop local services to provide help for people in the community e.g. gardening, maintenance.
- Make use of volunteers.
- To reduce risk of abuse through people being identified as not coping and subsequently targeted, encourage home owners and landlords to carry out external repairs.

Ideas you could use

These examples are taken from 'the baker's dozen' in Joseph Rowntree's 'The older people's enquiry: "That little bit of help (PDF file)"'.

A) Handy Help

This section of Trafford Care and Repair is a local charitable trust providing help with small repairs around the house. Handy Help is funded by grants from the business sector and carried out 402 small jobs during 2003/2004. There is a charge of £10 per visit and the user also pays for materials (which can be bought at cost through Handy Help).

B) Welcome Home

Volunteers help people returning from hospital – for example, by doing the shopping, or giving them a lift home. They also help them to settle back at home by tidying up, putting the heating on, sorting post, etc. No charge is made for this.

C) Help at Home

Services including cleaning, ironing, accompanied shopping, collecting pensions, etc. Help at Home aims to provide the same worker at the same time each week. Users pay £8.25 an hour for domestic support. The Gardening and Home Maintenance Service was re-launched in March 2004. Users pay £12.50 an hour for this.

D) Primary Night Care

Staff 'pop in' to people in their own homes during the night – for example, helping with toileting, medication, or to check all is well. Most visits are planned but staff can respond to emergencies. People can be supported through the night if the usual carer is taken ill. Users are charged for routine night visits but not for emergency calls.

E) Befriending Service

Provides companionship and support through regular visits. Befrienders have undertaken training, are CRB-checked and are supported by the Community Volunteer Service. Volunteers also provide a phone buddy service.

F) Sole Mates

Provide a footbath and a foot massage for people over 50 who cannot cut their own nails safely. The same volunteer visits each time. The charge is £3.50 a visit plus a one-off charge of £10 for their nail-clippers.

G) Cinnamon Trust

A national charity helping older or terminally ill people care for their pets. They provide help by walking and grooming dogs, taking pets to the vet, cleaning cages or short-term fostering. Life-long fostering can also be arranged.

To find out more, visit SCIE's Dignity in care guide at www.scie.org.uk