

UPDATE ON WEST KENT HOSPITAL DISCHARGE PILOT AND DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS

Mr JR who was re-admitted to Tunbridge Wells Hospital due to an initial unsafe discharge home. Patient transport had taken Mr JR home and then re-admitted him due to the condition of his home environment and unsafe living conditions. Mr JR reported that when at home he spent most of his time sitting in his arm chair reading, he did not have a cleaner or any support. Mr JR thought his home had got into the condition it was in due to the council not collecting his newspapers and so the house had just got messier as time had gone by, he was also in fear of losing his tenancy with the Housing Association if they discovered the condition of his home. The Health and Housing Coordinator undertook a visit the property to inspect the condition and found that each room was cluttered with possessions, additionally the rooms were very dirty and the bedroom had yoghurt pots filled with urine. Access was not possible by mobility frame to any rooms due to the amount of clutter. With Mr JR's consent and agreement the Handyperson service was utilised to undertake some initial de-cluttering to create space and a safe passage between rooms, and Mr JR agreed to fund the services of a cleaning company to carry out a deep clean, this enabled Mr JR to be discharged home. Post discharge the Health and Housing Coordinator completed a further home visit when Mr JR reported that he was feeling a lot happier in his home and was working on the ongoing clutter removal daily, he also reported no further falls since discharge. There was a significant difference in the amount of clutter in each room and the standard of cleanliness within the property was still as clean as when he was discharged from hospital. The Health and Housing Coordinator had organised a handymen clutter clearance to enable safe access to all rooms (scheme funded) and a deep clean in the kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and to the flooring (patient funded). In addition the Health and Housing Coordinator referred to Age UK for shopping and ongoing cleaning assistance (patient funded), the Good Neighbour service for ongoing decluttering and befriending (voluntary service) and the Occupational Therapy Service for bed and bathing transfer assessments. The risks/issues reduced or tackled from our involvement included falls and injury to both patient and carers; loss of independence in the home; social isolation; living environment/health and homelessness/loss of tenancy due to condition of property.