

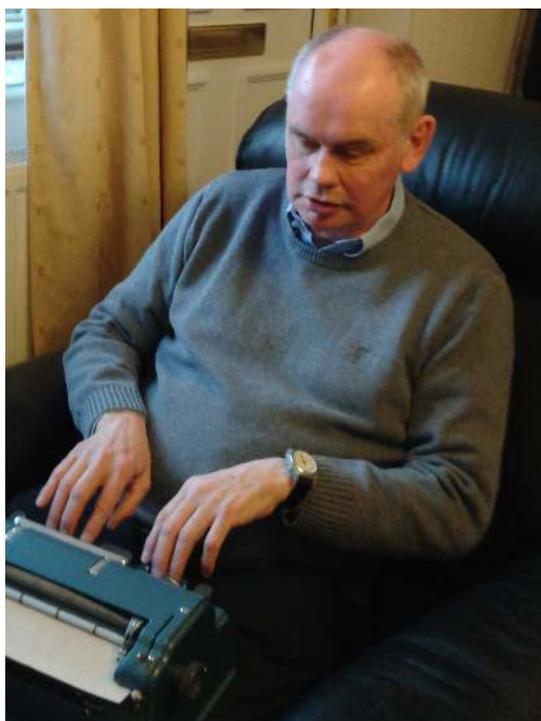
Direct Payments Support Service Case Study

Peter was finding things difficult with everyday living, and cooking his own meals. He became ill and needed help, and went to hospital for a short period.

When he came home, a Care Agency was appointed to provide support three times a day, to help with meals and washing.

It was discovered, while Peter was in hospital, that his sight had deteriorated – this led to difficulties with mobility, and therefore, the ability to go shopping, visit his doctor, dentist or bank, and have a social life. This led to a reduction in self confidence, and the development of depression.

After meeting with Bedford Social Services, it was suggested that Peter should enquire about direct payments for help with gaining a social life and mobility. Peter was advised to contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) for help with setting up his direct payments.



A Direct Payments Support Officer from the DRC visited Peter and discussed his needs: It was concluded that Peter needed help with his social life and daily living. As Peter was living alone, his brother was helping to care for him. The DRC decided to incorporate his brother, and design a service to suit Peter's needs.

The provision of this service, has enabled Peter to do some shopping, visit his doctor and bank etc. Peter now has a guide dog. He has his meals prepared, he can go shopping, and maintains a social life, which includes his keen interest in music.

The photograph shows Peter using his Braille machine

Without the advice, help and encouragement from the DRC, Peter could not lead an independent life in his own home. He now has the confidence to enjoy a normal social life. Through this, Peter's well-being and general health have greatly improved. What is more, by playing music with the local choir, Peter has put something back into his local community.