

SUPPORTING INDEPENDENT LIVING AT HOME



A very warm welcome to our autumn edition!

With the colder weather just around the corner and the prospect of higher electricity and gas prices for the winter period, my concerns are very much with those who are forced to economise on heating, to stay within a limited budget.

Cold homes have a huge impact on health and for those who have mobility or other disabilities to contend with, the impact can be very significant.

East Suffolk delivers the Warm Homes Healthy People service across the County and can visit, carry out a home survey and support residents to get improvements in insulation,

An example of some of the work we have carried out to improve residents lives.

draughtproofing, heating and even access extra financial help in some cases, to help with bills.

So PLEASE if anyone you are talking to could do with a dose of warmth this winter please refer to our warm homes team on 03456 037 686 or whhp@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Teresa Howarth -Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing)



Before



After

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Stepping Home Service - Highly Commended!



Stepping Home is a Suffolk wide service delivered by East Suffolk Council's Private Sector Housing team.

The service solves housing problems for vulnerable hospital patients by making small adaptations to their homes, e.g. grab rails, decluttering and cleaning.

The aims are to improve householder safety, independence, resilience and wellbeing.

It has previously featured on the BBC programme 'Housing Enforcers' as an example of best practice, and how local authorities are thinking outside the box to help solve complex housing issues.

The Stepping Home service has been highly commended by the MJ!

Stepping Home was entered into the 'delivering better outcomes'

category in the recent MJ awards.

The service made it through to the final 8 services out of 200 submissions and was subsequently recognised by The MJ as being highly commended for the work it delivers to vulnerable householders across Suffolk.



Introducing our new team member

Adrian George, Technical Officer:

"I previously worked for East Suffolk Council in the Buildings Maintenance Team and during the last 15 years undertook carpentry, plumbing and voids in a supervisory role, with my teams carrying out work in Council owned properties.

This included carrying out inspections; assessing the work required, etc., including adaptations & major works and extensions.

I am looking forward to the new challenge and feel both excited and happy to be working in the well-established ILES team.

Likewise, I am keen to be working with all of the partner

agencies involved to get the best outcomes for people and make a real difference so they can continue to live independently in their own homes.

Outside of work, I enjoy competing in Triathlons and boxing training, though I am getting too old for that now! However, I am proud to say that I did compete in a professional boxing match before I turned the big Five-O!

I enjoy working on old vehicles with the wife-to-be. We are currently refurbishing a 1985 camper van and I have also refurbished a 1967 Lambretta with minimal blood, sweat and only a few tears shed!"



Covid working

We have not significantly reduced covid measures and continue to do all we can to keep clients safe, however, we do rely on their co-operation to wear face coverings and keep 2 metres apart. They may also be asked to stay in another room whilst we're there. If they or you have ANY concerns about this, please talk to the Case Officer. Our staff will not remain in a client's home if they do not follow the Government Advice.

Walking 9 to 5 for Alzheimer's Society

Annelie Doick (ILES) sadly lost her dearly loved Nana Marie to Alzheimer's Disease after she had moved to Suffolk so Annelie's family could care for her.

Witnessing first-hand the impact Alzheimer's had, Annelie wanted to set herself a personal challenge to help a cause very close to her heart.... and to encourage team building.

Travelling to work one day, she mentioned it to Emily Chilvers, who came up with the idea of a walking challenge and before long, Emily had readily agreed with Annelie to walk the equivalent of Hadrian's Wall, but here in Suffolk, by taking part in the annual Alzheimer's 'Trek 26' event.

The penny then dropped when questioned if she knew just how far that was....Once over the shock that it was actually 26 miles, the pair then enlisted fellow colleagues Eleanor Wilding, Sarah Allison and Simon Coates, christening themselves 'Walking 9 to 5' (from the Dolly Parton film 'Working 9 to 5'), thinking that was how long 26 miles would take!....

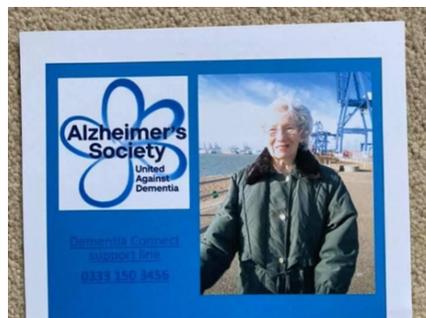
As it was, their September 18th trip - with a slight detour here and there - became over 27 miles; lasted from 7 to 6 and involved a cross country round trip through Campsea Ash, Snape, Wickham Market, Parham

& Marlesford.

They raised a staggering £2,038 from a target of £1,000, plus £379.25 from Gift Aid and donations direct to charity, making their total to date over £2,500!

Commenting after, Annelie said: "We just want to thank everyone for their amazing and overwhelming support with training, along the route and afterwards, plus senior colleagues Teresa and Samm for providing lunch and refreshments.... and of course all the generous donations – every penny helps!"

You can still donate via 'Just Giving' and searching 'Alzheimerstrek26-walking9to5' and as for next year? Well, challenges are already being bandied around for the WHOLE team, from assault courses to skydiving!.... Shame I'll be washing my hair! (Editor)



DFG Stat Attack! Putting it all into context

We currently have 194 cases with OT assessments. Clients have been advised by letter that their application will be processed in date received order and according to priority, with the focus on palliative care. Due to the sheer volume of applications they are also advised there is a delay, although we are working as efficiently as possible.

108 DFG cases have been approved since 1 April, with 85 completed (some approved in previous financial year). Covid has also impacted on contractors attending site due to the worldwide shortage of tradespeople and building materials. 16 works are currently on site and additionally, a further 10 are awaiting start date agreement, with 6 also agreed, making 32 in total.



"I just wanted to write and say a big thank you to each of you for all your help with Mum's bungalow. I cannot begin to describe to you what a difference these changes will make to mum's daily routine. Mum is absolutely delighted with the outcome and our hope as her family is that she can now remain in her bungalow for as long as possible. The new door and step to her rear garden have not only opened up her access to her outside space but also provided us as her family with much more confidence in her ability to do so independently."

RH (son), Kesgrave

On hearing that work will be starting on site soon, Caroline said: "Oh my goodness this is the best news ever, thank you so

much I can't believe it's actually happening."

Caroline, Kessingland

"The contractors have now all gone, and it is fabulous, I really don't see how any of the contractors could of been any better, they were polite, helpful and the way the main contractor cleared up after the job was finished, I have never seen from a tradesman before.....A really BIG THANK YOU to you all for getting all this work done for me."

Bill, Lowestoft

"Thank you for the letter and everything you have done for me. It is all fantastic and to say I am happy does not come anywhere near to how I feel. Thank you all again."

WM, Lowestoft RH, Kesgrave



A very warm welcome to our new suppliers

We are really pleased to be able to welcome Brandon Wetrooms, Grantchester Construction Ltd and Ramp & Mobility Solutions to our ever growing list of suppliers who carry out the DFG work on our behalf.

They join other active suppliers on our books, including 4 Principles, DD Alger & Son, East Suffolk Operations, GB Adaptions Ltd, John Ford Group, Seager Heating Ltd, Stuart W Dewell Builders Ltd, T.A.K. Building Maintenance Ltd and Trevor Benton Construction.

Since we first moved to using E-Purchasing we have awarded contracts worth over a whopping £340,000 to local contractors.

We are always keen to add more Suppliers and welcome any approach or suggestions!

How to apply for a DFG

An Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment is needed first and the client should contact the Independent Living Suffolk (ILS) at Suffolk County Council to arrange this, via ILS@suffolk.gov.uk or Tel: 0800 121 7711.

For more details on DFGs generally and the various steps after an OT assessment, please visit our web-page – details at the foot of this newsletter.

Got any questions?

Please do let us have any comments you have on the newsletter; any suggestions and questions about DFGs generally. Our contact details are below...thank you!

CONTACT US

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/adaptations-and-independent-living

0300 003 0231 | independent.living@eastsuffolk.gov.uk