

SUPPORTING A HOSPITAL DISCHARGE WITH ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

HIGHLIGHT

Mr C has a diagnosis of mixed dementia and COPD and has been a long standing patient at Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan after recurring infections which lead to delirium. Mr C was reported to have been found wandering on the ward throughout the night by staff on numerous occasions during his time at the hospital.

Mr C wished to return home to his property which is directly next door to his eldest daughter who would provide support daily with meals, cleaning & shopping. Mr C reported what mattered to him was that he could return home and go for his daily walk along the back pathway behind the property with his great grandchildren after school.

A multi-disciplinary team meeting was held on the ward with Mr C & family, as Mr C was medically fit for discharge. Family were concerned if Mr C was to leave the property at night if he was suffering with delirium, although it was not certain it would happen again they felt this was a risk to him returning home as the house is situated near a main road.

WHAT WE INSTALLED



It was agreed a door sensor and care assist could be installed at the property; the daughter would then be able to operate the care assist from her property as it was directly next door.

This would then monitor the front door during the night time and alert the daughter if the door was opened. It was agreed the door sensor was to be set active from 21:00 to 07:00. A discharge date was set and the assistive technology support worker and installer agreed to meet with daughter at the property the day of discharge.

The Assistive technology support worker and installer met the daughter at the property to fit and demonstrate safe use of the equipment as Mr C was returning home later that day.



HOW HAS THIS HELPED

This case study demonstrates how the use of assistive technology supported a hospital discharge allowing Mr C to return home in a timely manner and also allowed Mr C to remain able to go for his daily walk without depriving him of his liberty and reducing the risk of carer stress, as the daughter also cares for grand children and family members visiting throughout the day.

MAN ABOUT TOWN

HIGHLIGHT

Mr X is 50 years old and has moved to the Blaenau Gwent area with his wife. Mr X has Lebers Amaurosis and is registered blind. Mr X is only able to see shapes and shadows depending on the lighting as a result of this condition.

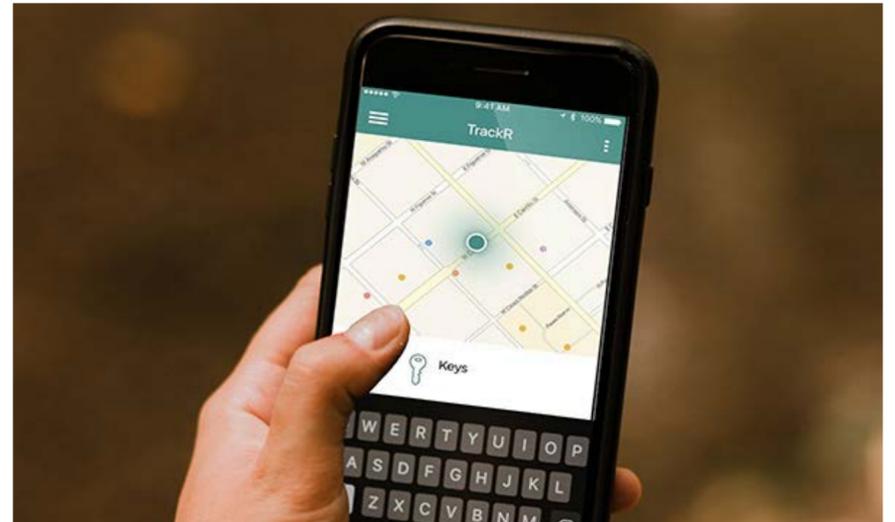
Mr X is fiercely independent and enjoys accessing the local community and eating out for lunch.

Whilst Mr X goes out into the community daily his wife becomes concerned that he will become lost and/or suffer a fall.

Mr X attends Sight Cymru group meetings on a monthly basis and after discussion with a Community Resource Team Visual Impairment (VI) support worker at this group Mr X & his wife reported some of their concerns regarding Mr X accessing the community alone.

The VI support worker then agreed to discuss these concerns with the assistive technology (AT) support worker to see if there was any current technology that may be useful.

WHAT WE INSTALLED



During a discussion between the VI support worker and AT support worker, they both felt a Footprint GPRS tracker would be suitable for Mr X to trial. The Footprint tracker is a small pebble keyring that has a built in falls detector, GPRS tracker & SOS button. Provision of this equipment would allow Mr X's wife to locate her husband when he accesses the community & allow Mr X to summon help if he lost his bearings.

AT support worker arranged a home visit to Mr X and wife to discuss the Footprint and explain how it would work. Mr X's wife had a smartphone so would be able to find the locations using this via a map application. Both Mr X and wife consented to the Footprint.

Once the Footprint had been ordered and demonstrated, AT support Worker agreed to contact Mr X in 3 weeks time to see if the Footprint was useful.



HOW HAS THIS HELPED

After 3 weeks of the Footprint being in place AT support worker contacted Mr X and wife to see if the Footprint met the current needs. Both Mr X and wife agreed that the footprint allowed Mr X to access the community safely and independently whilst his wife was provided with peace of mind knowing Mr X could be located at any time and summon help if needed. The equipment would also prevent Mr X from needing to rely on a friend or needing to request a PA in order to access the community which is what Mr X and wife had originally asked for.