

Case Study - Disabled Facilities Grants



David is a young man with cerebral palsy. He is also a full-time powered wheelchair user. To help support his long-term needs, a full package of care was established and put in place by Adult Social Care including a live-in carer and essential equipment.

To ensure his home was fully accessible, David applied for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) from Mendip District Council. The Council's Private Sector Housing Team worked in partnership with Somerset Independence Plus and Occupational Therapists from Somerset County Council to increase David's independence and adapt his home. The hallways were made wide enough for his wheelchair and an automatic door entry system, equipped with CCTV was installed. Without these essential adaptations, funded through the DFG, this would not have been possible.



Before and after. Now David's hallway features a spacious wheelchair turning area.

David was delighted to receive the DFG and is much happier now that improvements have been made to his home. The widening of his hallway makes it easier for him to turn his wheelchair, and provides access to his bathroom. Meanwhile, the installation of hoists ensures carers can better move and turn him.



David said: "I am so grateful to receive the grant funding which has paid for work to my home so it is easier for me to live my life."

David's father added: "The adaptations to make David's home more accessible have made a massive difference to his life and independence.

"The door-opening system means David can see from a screen, who is at his front door, and he can open and close the door remotely from his wheelchair, making him far more independent.

"The availability of the DFG is wonderful for helping disabled people improve their lives and independence. The availability of this funding needs to be more widely known."

Cllr Richard Pinnock, Portfolio Holder for Housing at Mendip District Council, said; "This is a good news story showing how professionals from different organisations come together on a daily basis, to work in partnership, to deliver essential life-changing improvements for people with disabilities.

"Without the grant, David would not have been able to live safely and independently with the close support of his family. It's great to see how the Council is able to fund these essential improvements, making the best use of the Government grant allocated to Councils each year."

Do you want help to live independently in your home? Discover more here: www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health. Alternatively, call 0300 123 2224 for information about accessing the Disabled Facilities Grant or to be referred for an Occupational Therapist assessment.

