

## HYNDBURN LOCALITY INNOVATION FUNDING

### **SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE AT HOME** **Small Things Matter - Essential Repairs Services**

The increasing focus of Government Housing, Health and Social Policies are to ensure that people are able to live as independently as possible and maintain quality of life in their own homes. ***To achieve this it is essential that homes are in a decent state of repair and are safe, warm and secure.***

**The home environment is a vital part of maintaining people's independence and the £5,000 awarded has made a tremendous difference to the safety, health and wellbeing of 101 clients and was used to fund:**

- 16 Accident prevention surveys, installation of aids and adaptations by the Handyperson Service
- 34 Handyperson jobs/essential repairs (little things make a big difference)
- 6 Energy measures (repairs to boilers, draughtproofing etc.,)
- 22 Security jobs (crime prevention assessments/installation of security measures)
- 17 Environmental assessments to ensure clients continue to live independently in their own home in a safe, warm, and secure environment
- 6 clients with fund raising for major works (stairlift, repairs to roof, central heating, level access showers etc.,)

**Added Value: An additional £10,140.00 of extra resources was raised in order to fund these essential works**

#### **Case Studies:**

*A gentleman who suffers with Parkinson's disease with health deteriorating was unable to use the stairs and relied on assistance from his wife. Before a stair lift could be installed the electricians needed repairs consequently £2,237.50 was raised and works have been carried out enabling him to have independence without relying on others to help.*

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*A 76 year old lady needed new central heating as her system was old and had broken down. Charities were approached and £2,850 was raised to pay for the works*

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*A 78 year old gentleman living alone was referred to us, by an Occupational Therapist, as he was making all his meals in a microwave because he didn't have a cooker, therefore £223.50 was raised to provide and install the cooker and now the gentleman can cook healthy meals*

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*A 76 year old gentleman living alone needed a level access shower, we therefore contacted 9 charities and raised £3,009 to pay for this essential work.*

**Client satisfaction and quality of service is very important and we continue to monitor and evaluate same, as follows: During April 2012 to March 2013 – 84% have returned questionnaires/provided feedback – of which: 99.9% found the service excellent (71.5%) or very good (28.4%) with 0.1% found the service was good.**

**What Clients say about us:**

“Very quick service day after fitting. Great”  
“Brilliant job, excellent advice, made my day”  
“Its a very good way of getting a reliable service for pensioners especially”  
“Local people make you feel safe. Many thanks, good luck to you all”  
“Homewise have been helpful for many years”  
“Super job, always turn up trumps when I use Homewise”  
“Just a little note to thank you for all your help and hard work I am very grateful.

## **Conclusions**

By 2025 the number of people in the UK aged over 85 will have increased by two thirds

Appropriate housing that is warm, secure and properly adapted can help to prevent or defer entry into residential care for older people. One year's delay will save around £29,000 per person.

One of the key findings of an evaluation of a handyperson service by Birmingham University was that ***‘accessing the handyperson service is not necessarily seen as a ‘weakness’ or as the ‘first step on the road to dependence’ but rather as a strategy to maintain independence’***. Older people themselves have identified such help as a high priority and seen as potentially playing an important role in future independence

There is ample evidence about housing and health links to demonstrate that housing improvements can have a significant impact on older people's health, well-being and ability to live independently.

If this scheme has helped just one person to remain in their home for 1 year longer then it has more than paid for itself and we have a lot more  
**Happier People – Healthier People**