

David was referred to the Helpline by a Social Worker - he needed support finding activities and services in his area. David had cancer and was referred to the Macmillan Cancer Support Team.

This is his story written by a Macmillan Cancer Navigator...

David's Story

I first called David to have a chat and assess his needs. **It was important to find out what David needed help with, what else was going on in his life, and, most importantly, listen and get to know him a little.**

David had moved to Cornwall to be closer to friends. During our conversation, David's sense of humour came across loud and clear. Even though physically he was quite unwell and socially isolated, he never failed to see the silver-lining in his circumstances and was always first to crack a joke and make us laugh.

During the first call, it was clear that David had a strong desire to go out for short walks and enjoy the outdoors. David had mobility issues and was often left

housebound and isolated. He had a high risk of falls if unaccompanied. David's mobility issues were due to his cancer, which was now being treated as palliative.

We talked for a long time about volunteers and agency staff, and he agreed that I could call an agency in his region. Our plan was to see if they had someone spare so he could go out in a wheelchair.

It transpired that David was already a client of this agency - which provided a weekly clean. **After a short chat, the member of staff was more than happy to extend the hours and take him outside. We scheduled a follow-up conversation.**



David's Story

During the next phone call, I noticed a marked difference in David's personality - he was more relaxed and positive. **On several occasions, David could get out of his flat and enjoy the fresh air. David was even able to meet his neighbours.**

Slowly but surely, David opened up to me, we discussed his financial circumstances and decided to apply for a Macmillan grant. The grant would help David buy a new washing machine, which he could access and use by himself.

People may see this as a small act. However, for David, this was empowering and increased his independence.

I showed David how to access a wide range of Macmillan resources. This would enable David to make more choices for himself.

David is a private person, and he told me that, for now, he didn't want anything else from Macmillan or Age UK Cornwall. However, he said that he felt more secure and confident knowing that he could call the Macmillan Cancer Support Services when he needed to.

David and I had a few more brief phone calls, everything is going well for him. He said, that he will always be very grateful for our support and the help that we provided.

