Falls Prevention in Action

Age UK Wakefield District Team working within Connecting Care

Frank lives alone and was very independent but his health deteriorated rapidly, and he suddenly needed constant care and support, with mobility issues now making him unsteady. His family who live nearby were worried and struggling to manage.

Whilst his GP tried to determine the cause of the deterioration, the family tried to stay, make meals and clean, but they had jobs and were worried about his safety when they could not be there.

The Age UK Wakefield District team made an urgent referral to appropriate services. Social services visited the following day and Frank was given reablement support, four times a day to assess and assist with meals and personal care. MY Therapy provided equipment to aid mobility and improve his steadiness. Carelink was installed for Frank's safety and the peace of mind of the children. Meanwhile, the Age UK Wakefield District team assisted Frank in applying for and receiving attendance allowance, which helped him pay for support services, and in completing a blue badge application, so the client would be able to go out with family when well enough.

The cause of Frank's deterioration was undetermined but with assistance from social care and reablement, he regained some strength and improved greatly.

This combined and coordinated response greatly reduced the chance of Frank falling and relieved the considerable strain on the family. Frank is now hoping to drive again and meanwhile the blue badge means he can park close to where he wants to go and has room in the disabled spaces to get in and out of the car. With the attendance allowance, he has now hired a cleaner and this takes more pressure off Frank and his family.

(Name changed to protect identity)

'We were at a loss of what to do, we were so worried about our father and were struggling to manage to help him. You got all the right people involved to help and helped him to stay safe. Thank you for explaining everything to us'