

# gadgets update

The latest news about Assistive Technology and Telecare in Solihull

Issue 5 July 2014

**Welcome** to the fifth Gadget Update. Every quarter we aim to bring you the latest news about gadgets (assistive technology & telecare) in Solihull and highlight some of the gadgets we have available.

#### **In this issue:**

**Latest News**

**Hot product:** *Paper Thin Bed Sensor*

**Case study:** *Mrs Gilbert and Just Checking*

## Latest News

### Give Gadgets a Try

In Adult social care we have set a new target relating to 'useful gadgets'. We are already finding that the results of using gadgets are good – they promote independence, quality of life and cost effectiveness – so we want to make sure that as many people possible can benefit. The target is that 1 in 4 assessments and reviews in adult social care should result in a referral for assistive technology and telecare. We are hoping that this target will help individual teams and workers to put their training into practice, and give gadgets a try. The Gadgets Team is available to offer help and support with picking the right gadgets and following the right process. They are available on 0121 709 7077 or [gadgets@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:gadgets@solihull.gov.uk)

### Box of Tricks

The Gadgets Group (gadget users and their carers) has begun offering demonstrations of useful gadgets called 'Box of Tricks' alongside the council's Gadgets Team. The sessions feature widely available and inexpensive gadgets that can improve quality of life and help people stay independent. They give people the chance to see and touch a variety of useful gadgets and find out how they work. They also tell people where they can buy the items and how much they cost. If you know of any groups who would like to hold a 'box of tricks' session please let the Gadgets team know on 0121 709 7077 or email [gadgets@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:gadgets@solihull.gov.uk)

### Your Solihull

If you live in Solihull you should have received the latest edition of the Council's magazine Your Solihull through your letterbox – it goes to every home in the borough. The edition features an article about useful gadgets under the title 'Keeping Well Connected'. It tells the story of Desmond Taylor who has been using gadgets and explains how they have improved his life, and helped give his family peace of mind. The article is one of the ways we are raising public awareness and encouraging people to find out more about gadgets.



### Home Hazard Assessments

Solihull Community Housing (SCH) are offering a new service that aims to reduce falls at home. The team assess people's home, identify possible causes of falls and arrange minor repairs or installation of simple equipment (up to the value of £150) to reduce these risks. The service is funded by Solihull Clinical Commissioning Group and is closely linked to SCH's Telecare service which provides gadgets. Gadgets are often part of the solution to prevent falls. For further information please contact SCH on 0121 717 1515.



## Gadget of the Week

Many of you will have already seen the 'Gadget of the Week' e-mail. This has been sent to everyone in the Council's adult social care team over the last few months by Salma Rafiq in the Gadgets Team. We have received so much positive feedback about it that we have extended the mailing group so more people can receive it. If 'Gadget of the Week' hasn't reached you yet and you would like to receive it in future, please let the Gadgets Team know.

**Hot product!**

## Paper thin bed occupancy sensor

### What is it?

A bed occupancy sensor, that can detect when a person leaves (or falls from) their bed. Can also be used to detect when someone leaves (or falls from) a chair.

### What does it do?

If an individual is at risk of falls or injuring themselves trying to get out of bed (or when they have left bed), this bed sensor immediately raises an alarm to inform carers.

### How does it work?

It is placed on top of the mattress or back rest of the chair and works using dielectric signals. This means that it detects how close the individual is to the sensor and monitors movement and change in position. Most bed or chair sensors work by changes in pressure (the weight of the person's body). Studies completed by the manufacturer prove this sensor can reduce potential false alarms compared to traditional bed sensors.

The paper thin bed occupancy sensor can work with any type of bed or mattress; for example it is ideal for an electric profiling bed and air flow mattress where other bed sensors may not work very well. This means it is suitable for individuals who are prone to pressure sores/ ulcers.

The sensor is waterproof and easy to clean. Sensor sheets can be cut to any size and be positioned as required, for example it can fit into different types of chair.

### Limitations

- Currently it only works with the manufacturer's 'neo care phone' rather than other telecare systems. However it will soon be compatible with Tynetec and Tunstall equipment (the largest providers of telecare equipment).
- Like other bed sensors it may need to be replaced on a regular basis.

### How to get hold of it

For people who are eligible for adult social care from Solihull Council, a referral can be made through to the Solihull Community Housing Telecare service. Contact: 0121 717 1515.

Private clients can also purchase via the SCH Telecare service, or purchase direct from the manufacturer or other equipment providers.

For further information please contact the Gadgets Team on 0121 709 7077 or email

[gadgets@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:gadgets@solihull.gov.uk)



# *gadgets* case studies

## ***Mrs Gilbert and Just Checking***



Mrs Gilbert has dementia and diabetes. She lives alone and her daughters live in other parts of the UK. She receives daily support from a Care Agency and from a Community Nurse. She has a pendant alarm from Solihull Community Housing's Safe & Sound scheme.

Following a fall, Mrs Gilbert was admitted to hospital. Her memory and diabetes had both got worse. Her Social Worker and family members were concerned that she wasn't sleeping well and might be letting strangers into her property. They were worried that she might need residential care.

The Social Worker decided that using the Just Checking electronic assessment tool would provide evidence about Mrs Gilbert's ability to live independently. Mrs Gilbert was happy to use the equipment so it was installed by the Gadgets Team.

After 3 weeks the Telecare Officer wrote a summary report of the findings and fed them back to Mrs Gilbert, her daughters and her Social Worker.

Just  
Checking 



### ***The main findings were:***

- Mrs Gilbert's night time routine was not unusual
- There was no evidence of unexpected visitors
- Mrs Gilbert was spending long periods of time alone at home

### ***The result***

- Solihull Community Housing provided a wrist-worn falls detector in case Mrs Gilbert had another serious fall
- Mrs Gilbert, her family and the Social Worker agreed that existing care/support arrangements were satisfactory
- The Social Worker worked with Mrs Gilbert to support increased day-time activities
- The lack of unexpected visitors reassured Mrs Gilbert's family that she was

## Training – future dates, booking in

Get ahead by learning more about useful gadgets at our training sessions. Assessor sessions are aimed at council staff with responsibility for conducting assessments or reviews for adults. Awareness sessions are aimed at council staff working with adults but who don't conduct assessments or reviews. Please book on via the Oracle system.

Training Date	Type of session	Venue	Time
03/07/2014	Assessor Training	Sans Souci	9.00am to 12.30pm
03/07/2014	Awareness Training	Sans Souci	1.30pm to 4.00pm
14/07/2014	Awareness Training	Sans Souci	9.00am to 11.30am
14/07/2014	Assessor Training	Sans Souci	1.00pm to 4.30pm
09/09/2014	Assessor Training	Sans Souci	9.00am to 12.30pm
09/09/2014	Awareness Training	Sans Souci	1.30pm to 4.00pm
18/09/2014	Assessor Training	Sans Souci	9.00am to 12.30pm
18/09/2014	Awareness Training	Sans Souci	1.30pm to 4.00pm
30/09/2014	Awareness Training	Sans Souci	9.00am to 11.30am
30/09/2014	Assessor Training	Sans Souci	1.00pm to 4.30pm

## Contact details

Information about gadgets (ATT) for the public can be found on the [Council's website](#).

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Magiplug



Pull cord



Reach-plus



Sounder beacon