

CASE STUDY – Daisy

Daisy who is 88 years old fell at home, this led to a hospital admission.

Whilst in hospital Derek, Daisy's husband was advised that to be able to go home Daisy would need a package of care that would require 4 calls a day.

When the Social Worker spoke with Derek, although he appreciated that Daisy needed support to enable her to return home safely what mattered to him and his family most was their privacy. Derek struggled with the thought of strangers coming into their home four times a day.

Derek declined the offer of a carer's assessment as he sees it as his duty to care for his wife.

The Social Worker explored at length with Derek how best Daisy's needs could be met in the least intrusive manner whilst balancing the risks and rights of all concerned.

It was agreed that to enable Daisy to return home a package of care was put in place for two calls a day for personal care and Derek would prepare meals. It was clear to the Social Worker that Derek had a strong desire to be the one who looked after Daisy, his wife of 68 years.

After a short time Derek was admitted to hospital with heart problems. The rest of the family did step in but quickly became worn out with the driving back and to and caring for Daisy. As a result the package of support was increased to 4 calls a day to enable Daisy to remain at home and prevent any further stress on the family.

When Derek returned home the amount of care he could provide was sporadic, very much dependent on the amount of rest he got the day before and how he was feeling. The Social Worker thought that a Support Budget would be the answer and the agency providing Daisy's care was receptive, as they had already been working in a flexible way to be responsive to the changing needs of the family. The most important thing to Daisy was to be at home with Derek and her dogs.

The value of a Support Budget for Daisy and her family was that they had more choice and control over when and for how long they had support workers coming in to help them.

For Community Support Services it has meant that the social worker does not have to be called in for all the changes to the level of a carepackage because Daisy and Derek are completely in control of when and how support is delivered.