



It seems that the year has just passed in a flash! It is now December and only a few weeks until the Christmas Break. I am looking forward to a few days off and I am sure that the rest of the Care & Repair team are as well. It has been a really busy year for us - with no let up. I said in the last newsletter that we seem to be moving in the right direction with Covid. Hopefully this is still the case and that the Omicron variant will not have as big an impact as the earlier variants. We have not relaxed though – we still continue to use full PPE and ask pre-visit questions when visiting clients. This is something we intend to continue even once the Covid emergency has finally finished.

- Jamie Burgess, Manager



SAFE AS HOUSES

1. HOME SECURITY

We were successful with our funding bid to the Community Safety Partnership for funds to run the Safe as Houses Project (victims of crime and domestic abuse) for another year.

Unfortunately, the funding bid for the following year to the Delivering Equally Safe fund was not successful – feedback from the funder was that we had too small a project for them to fund.

The Safe as Houses project operates for 1 day per week and helps clients who are victims of domestic abuse, assault or other crimes with home security advice and installation of security devices. We assisted nearly 350 clients during 2020/21 and provided approximately £4,000 worth of equipment.

We are continually fundraising to provide this equipment that is provided free-of-charge to clients.

2. HOME SAFETY

We were successful in applying for funds from the Community Safety Partnership and are now able to offer the Safe as Houses Home Safety Service to clients,

Eligible clients:

- Anyone in the household over the age of 60 years
- Anyone in the household of any age living with a physical or mental disability
- Anyone who has been referred to the service as vulnerable

This service is available for 1 day per week and receives self-referrals from clients and referrals from partner agencies. When asked to visit we will carry out a home safety survey, identify hazards within the home and then suggest advice to clients and offer assistance to carry out the recommendations for the safety survey.

- Verbal advice
- Installation of safety equipment
- Portable electrical equipment testing (PAT)
- Relocation of furniture and mats/rugs
- Removal of (dangerous) hazards identified
- Referrals to appropriate agencies for further assistance



TELECARE AND KEY SAFES

This contract with South Lanarkshire Social Work to install community alarms, wireless peripheral devices, key safes and euro locks continues to be really busy. We are working hard to keep up with changes in technology, especially as systems change from analogue to digital.

DEMENTIA PROJECT

We were successful with a funding bid to “Life Saving Trust – Creating Better Lives in Lanarkshire” and received funds to allow us to run a dementia enablement project for one day per week for 18 months. This project will look at home safety for people with dementia and their carers and offer a free small repairs service to clients with dementia as well. There has been a slight delay rolling out this project but we hope that it will be fully operational from **January 2022**.



SMALL REPAIRS

This service available to elderly and disabled clients offers great value for money to clients and the opportunity to get small but important small repairs and maintenance jobs done around the house. Our Small Repairs Technicians can help with a variety of work and help with information about contractors if unable to assist.

** SMALL REPAIRS PROJECTS **

SOLAR LIGHTS

We have now exhausted our funds to supply and install solar lights across South Lanarkshire - installing approximately 88 across the region.



FIRE DETECTION

We are working hard to keep up with requests for fire detection installation where clients are paying for the work themselves and are currently informing new clients that we will not be able to carry out the installations until about January 2022. We received £51,000 from the Scottish Government to assist home-owner clients in receipt of a passporting benefit and in council tax band A-C with the installation of the fire detection. Eligible clients can get compliant devices installed free-of-charge.

OTHER NEWS

AEDs

We have now purchased 4 refurbished AEDs (automated external defibrillator) and carry them on our vans. The vans have a sign on them giving instruction how members of the public could access them as well should they need to.

NEW STAFF

We have taken on Steve Bland to join the Small Repairs team. Steve will mainly be working on the fire detection and telecare

We have also taken on 2 young people under the Kickstart Scheme. Connie & Keegan started with us in November and will be with us for 6 months learning employability and on the job skills. This experience will hopefully help them with future job prospects.

EXPANDING AREA OF INFLUENCE

At our AGM on 4 November, our Board of Directors voted unanimously to change our name and sphere of influence. This means that, once the relevant paperwork has been processed by OSCR and Companies House, the following changes will take place:

- ⇒ We will become known as **Care & Repair in Lanarkshire**
- ⇒ Our Sphere of influence (operating area) will be **Lanarkshire (North & South)**
- ⇒ This will align us with NHS Lanarkshire, Lanarkshire FRS, Lanarkshire Carers and other pan Lanarkshire organisations.

We would be delighted to hear from individuals or agencies with requests for assistance or from anyone who has a suggestion for a project that would suit Care and Repair and be of value to residents in South Lanarkshire.

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Please call us on 01555 666200 or email us at enquiries@careandrepair-sl.co.uk or write to us at 6a Hope Street, Lanark ML11 7LZ
Additional information can be found on our web site www.careandrepair-sl.co.uk