



Leading an independent life at home can be made easier with an ever growing list of specialised products

Around one in five adults in the UK is disabled, and more than one million of those live alone. With the right support and facilities, leading an independent life with a physical or learning disability is now more achievable than ever.

Potentially millions more people in the UK could live independently and safely at home if they had the right equipment to assist with daily living. That is what people want, but currently awareness of equipment that can help is low and there are not enough trained staff to provide assessment and information.

One company that is trying to change this situation is Home Care Preferred who sells and hires a wide range of products from their shop in Winchmore Hill.

Retail and Products Manager, Solly Gul, meets a growing number of people each week who are amazed at the range of products that can assist with more independent living at home.

"Quite often people visit our shop to buy something like a pair of shoes for problem feet however they are surprised at the extent of goods that are available" Solly explained. "As well as selling the better known items such as phones with large buttons and walking sticks, we also sell more specialised items. For example we are now stocking a tracking system which can be used to keep track of people who have dementia and may be prone to wandering. We also have a very good telecare system that includes a panic alarm which is particularly useful for people who are prone to falls.

There are literally thousands of items available; some of the most popular items include kitchen and bathroom equipment.

"We offer a very personal service to our clients and it is always a pleasure to see the positive difference our products can make to people's lives. I am seeing many people coming back to Home Care Preferred for additional products.

People are often surprised that we also sell and hire products including rise and recline chairs, wheelchairs and commodes. In the last year we have seen a large increase in business with our sale of shoes and slippers for problem feet. Being a local stockist for Cosyfeet and Sandpiper shoes certainly attracts people from a wide area. Customers are always pleased that they can try on several pairs of shoes before buying; this is very different to an on-line shopping experience" Solly concluded.

As well as equipment it is also important that people can have their home adapted to suit any disabilities. Home Care Preferred can provide adaptation services and have a handyman service with DBS (police) checked people to carry out smaller and larger jobs around the home. Paul Fraser who has vast experience in the field of adaptations for people with disabilities has recently joined Home Care Preferred as a Building and Adaptations Consultant and is able to give expert advice.



HOME CARE PREFERRED

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