



The Stairclimber People – Case Study

“tech” helps Pam avoid becoming house-bound

Council re-uses kit, addresses ‘common parts’ in flats

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One of the biggest fears for many older people living in flats is inability to get “out and about” should they become less mobile, particularly if there is no lift.

One North Yorkshire family has been given an efficient way around the problem as arthritis, osteoporosis, sclerosis of the liver and COPD took their toll on their mum’s health and mobility.

Pam Backshell loves her Scarborough first-floor flat, with its panoramic views across the bays. She says even if she becomes bed-ridden, she will not move home. Her conditions mean she cannot walk any distance, and often needs to use a wheelchair when she goes out, whether to the shops or just for some fresh air. The block of flats where she lives has no lift. For her to go out, she was having to bottom shuffle down the concrete steps, relying on family and carers for support to ensure her safety.

Her daughter Charlotte was worried, and wanted to find a better way.

North Yorkshire County Council already had an AAT S-Max stairclimber in its equipment stock. This has been re-issued to Pam, meaning her mobility has been restored for no extra capital cost to the

Authority. AAT trained Charlotte and the family in the safe use of the S-Max.



Explained Charlotte, “The stairclimber’s been a real problem-solver. It means so much to us. The stairclimber is so quick and easy to use, it’s just a couple of buttons to operate. It has been a life-saver.: it was so dangerous how we used to get mum out and back home. This way is much more dignified. We have to deal with a flight of stairs from mum’s flat to the main entrance, then more steps beyond. Gareth from AAT was so helpful in working with us to find the best way to navigate them all.”

Adds Peter Wingrave, AAT Director, “20% of the population- 4.7m people- live in flats, most commonly three storeys or less. With our growing ageing population, flat access and egress is only going to increase as a problem for occupational Therapists. A stairclimber is the easy solution, that does not impinge on other residents, nor require any adaptation and associated permissions from landlords.”

Find out more: <https://www.aatgb.com/s-max/>