



"I feel safer and it helps me to retain my independence."

Jill Powell

THE PROBLEM

77 year old ex-nurse Jill Powell is registered blind and has a frail physique from childhood polio. Polio is a viral illness that can affect the nerves governing the muscles in the limbs and the muscles necessary for breathing, causing respiratory difficulty and paralysis of the arms and legs.

THE NEED

As a result, Jill is prone to falls. Though Jill has a carer who comes twice a week to help her around the home, a concern for her is being at home alone if she has an accident with nobody there to help her. In 2008 Jill had two falls at home, which prompted her to seek an alternative solution.

THE ANSWER

"When my sight deteriorated, I had TeleCare installed. A weight lifted off my shoulders because it helped me to stay in my home on my own and be by myself."

THE METHOD

TeleCare uses a combination of alarms, sensors and other response equipment to raise a call for help in emergency situations, by alerting either a carer and/ or a response centre 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Jill now has a pendant she can press if she needs assistance, a heat detector in the kitchen to warn of high temperatures and a radio pull cord in the bathroom.

THE EQUIPMENT



Personal Alarm

Usually worn on a neck strap. Users can press the alarm if they need immediate assistance.



Radio Pull Cord

To raise alerts in areas where personal triggers are unlikely to be worn ie in the bathroom or positioned next to the bed.



Heat Detector

Provides additional protection against the risk of fires in rooms where smoke detectors are unsuitable e.g. kitchen.



Lifeline Connect

Lifeline units can be used to raise an alarm call from anywhere in the home.

THE OUTCOME

"Because of my nursing experience I was thrilled to hear these things were being developed to help protect vulnerable people and help them maintain their dignity so they can feel like they are still capable of carrying on themselves."

"Now I can have a bath on my own. I feel safer and it helps me to retain my independence," Jill said.