

Hyndburn Homewise, a Home Improvement Agency in Accrington, Lancashire runs Memory Matters which support people living with memory issues and their carers.

The project, funded by NHS East Lancashire CCG, supports people to stay at home continuing to live independently and keeping them safe and out of hospital and residential care. Simple innovations in the home can make all the difference to the visual and orientation problems people with dementia can face. Examples include changing white grab rails in bathrooms to blue or light switches to red or blue to improve visibility, the use of memory aids to remind people to lock doors or close the fridge, the use of signage and pictures to aid orientation.

If the home is a safe environment people can remain for longer holding on to their memories at home which is better for their quality of life. Since 2013 Memory Matters has helped over 414 families with focused work to meet a variety of needs about the home – from £50 for improved lighting to £4000 for a level access shower arranged by raising charitable funds to pay for adaptations.

As well as advice and support to improve the home it offers advice on care and welfare benefits and has brought together a network of support for the families helped to ensure the continued independent, health and wellbeing of the clients and their carers

See article in Living with Dementia magazine from the Alzheimer's Society.

https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/info/20082/living_with_dementia_magazine/336/home_improvement_agencies_can_support_people_with_dementia_to_live_independently [Feb/March 2016]

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