

Press Release
January 9 2009

Local pensioner urges others to attend advice roadshows



Care & Repair Torfaen is supporting the Welsh Assembly Government's Keep Well This Winter campaign by holding a series of roadshows in Torfaen later this month.

Care & Repair is a national organisation that provides advice to pensioners and disabled homeowners and carries out home adaptations to make it easier for them to live independently.

Support includes help to find funding, obtaining quotes from approved contractors, overseeing building work and inspecting completed work.

The local Torfaen agency helped more than 1,181 people continue to live independently in their own homes last year.

Mrs Sweetland, aged 83, from Cwmbran recently received help from the agency to secure funding to have an internal stair rail fitted and a grab rail installed by the side of her bath. She said: "I didn't realise that this kind of help was available. The adaptations have made a huge difference. I now feel a lot safer using the stairs and the staff have been so helpful. I can't thank Care and Repair Torfaen enough."

Mrs Sweetland also received a referral for a government heating grant as she doesn't have heating throughout her home, a welfare benefits check to ensure she is claiming everything she is entitled to, a referral to The Bobby Scheme which resulted in her having new door locks and safety chains fitted, and help to remedy a damp problem.

The roadshows are being held from January 13 – 23 2009 at the following venues:

- **Tuesday January 13** – Millennium Hall, Garndiffaith – **11am - 1:30pm**
- **Monday January 19** – Abersychan Health Centre – **9am - 11:30am**
- **Monday January 19** – Tesco Pontypool – **9:30am - 1:30pm**
- **Tuesday January 20** – Tesco Pontypool – **9.30am - 1:30pm**
- **Wednesday 21st January** – Pontypool Indoor Market – **11am - 2:30pm**
- **Monday January 26** – Carreg Wen Surgery, Blaenavon – **9am - 11:30am**
- **Tuesday January 27** – Woodland Road Social Club (annexe) – **2pm - 4pm**
- **Wednesday January 28** – B & Q, Cwmbran – **10am - 2:30pm**

All homeowners or private tenants aged 60 and over who attend the roadshows will receive a Healthy Homes checklist, two free energy saving light bulbs and will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win a free food hamper.

For further details please call Care & Repair Torfaen on 08453 101180.

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Photo caption:

- Mrs Sweetland now feels safer in her home thanks to this internal stair rail – just one of the adaptations that Care & Repair Torfaen carried out in her home.

Contacts for further information:

- Nicola Maule, Agency Manager, Care & Repair Torfaen – 08453 101180
Nicola.maule@crtorfaen.co.uk
- Laura Maddrell, Communications Officer, Melin Homes – 01495 745929
laura.maddrell@melinhomes.co.uk
- Wendy Bourton, Chief Executive, Care & Repair Cymru – 029 2057 6286
(National Office)

Notes to editors:

- Care & Repair Torfaen is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, Torfaen County Borough Council, Torfaen Local Health Board and Melin Homes.

- The Agency exists to enable older, vulnerable or disabled home owners or private tenants to remain in their own homes, within their own communities, living as independently as possible. This is achieved through the improvement of their housing conditions and consequent improvement in their level of comfort, health and security.
- Care and Repair Cymru is the national body for Wales which promotes, develops and supports Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency Services for older and disabled people.
- Keep Well This Winter is a national campaign aimed at helping people aged over 65.