

Press Release

Pensioners star in film to praise local agency

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PENSIONERS across Monmouthshire starred in a film praising a local agency that this year has helped over 800 older people continue to live independently in their own homes for longer.

Care & Repair Monmouthshire carry out home adaptations, fit hand rails and give advice making it easier to continue to live independently. Staff at the agency invited several of their customers to take part in the video to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the service in Wales.

The stars of the video came from across Monmouthshire and were invited to the premier at Saint Michaels' Centre, Abergavenny, where it was aired in front of local

councillors, dignitaries and the chief executive of Care & Repair Cymru, Wendy Bourton OBE.

Care & Repair Monmouthshire Manager Shona Martin added: "By investing in a hand rail that may cost £100, we could be saving £100,000 cost the National Health Service by preventing accidents.

She added "Many older people restrict their activities because of the risk of falling, Care & Repair helps to improve older people's levels of security, safety, comfort and independence."

Care & Repair helps by making adaptations or finding grant money to increase older people's levels of security, safety, comfort and independence."

The Monmouthshire agency is one of 22 across Wales and it is hosted by Melin Homes.

Melin's Chief Executive Mark Gardner said: "Care & Repair has fast become an essential service in Monmouthshire. It has proved that by carrying out essential and small works it has helped people to stay in their homes, prevented accidents and helped prevent people going into hospital. It has a real impact on social services budgets and those of the health service. It makes a difference."

Mr & Mrs Shortridge from Abergavenny were happy to take part in the filming after having help from Care & Repair Monmouthshire. The agency helped them find reputable builders to convert a small room into a downstairs shower when arthritis made it more difficult to cope with stairs.

In a fantastic tribute to the work of Care & Repair Mr Shortridge said: "I know now that when I go to glory there will be someone here to help my wife, she knows where to go for help now."

Ends

336 words

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Notes to editors;

Melin Homes is a not for profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk.

Care & Repair Monmouthshire is one of 22 similar agencies throughout Wales overseen by Care & Repair Cymru. It exists to promote the security, safety, comfort and independence of older people living in their own homes. Melin Homes hosts the agencies in Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

