



Making a Difference



Longhurst & Havelok Homes always tries to make a real and positive difference to tenants' lives, whether helping people find an affordable home or getting extra care and support. We often hear about the policies and procedures, but what actually happens?

Here's the story of Keith Dawson, a fanatic football fan who sadly lost his legs to diabetes but has since managed to rebuild his life.





Keith has lived in Lincoln since 1988 and loves the area but finding permanent accommodation has not been straight forward. As a result of the amputations, the first in 2005, and the many strokes he suffered between them, Keith had to constantly move flats and go through rehabilitation. Unfortunately, his mental health began to decline as a result of the massive changes. He lost a lot of his confidence and stopped going out, becoming very lonely and anxious about being on his own. Living in such a poor condition, it was decided between him, his social workers and the L&H care and support team that he should move into a room at Ashley Court when one became available.

Since moving in 2009, Keith's confidence has grown every day. He is really benefiting from the company in Ashley Court and is able to keep in contact with other friends via e-mail and Facebook. With the help of a carer, he has started to get out more and is now confident enough to go out on his own at least twice a week, sometimes more when transport is available.

Football is extremely important to Keith and has provided a lot of motivation. Watching live matches has been a passion since he was 5 years old, falling in love with the game when he started going to local games with his dad. Going to his first away match in Chesterfield since he moved to Ashley Court has been his proudest moment, as he carried and used his insulin without assistance. He now aims to go to 40 matches before Christmas and 70 matches in the season! A well travelled fan, he has already seen a whopping 400 stadia, he enjoys visiting them all but prefers the 'oldie worldy' type, though he appreciates that newer ones have better facilities for people in similar situations to him.

He has gradually come to terms with the changes he has gone through and is trying to live life to the full. This year he has his 50th birthday to look forward to and a party which is being arranged by Ashley Court for him, his friends, family and the rest of the residents and staff, which no doubt marks a very significant milestone and a great new start for Keith.