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Derby, Burton & District Panel
Serving Derbyshire & East Staffordshire

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We have had a few changes recently at head office with David Martin changing from Network Development Officer to become our new CEO. Sophie Morrison replaces him as Network Development Officer. In our panel there are three new recruits – Robin Graham, Ben Wright and Nick Holberton bringing our numbers up to twenty one but unfortunately Ben decided to leave the panel after just one job. Here are a few of the referrals completed recently.

DB-072-17, Chris Morison

A small lady with Parkinsons Disease, who was a permanent wheelchair user, had a kitchen window over the sink. She had difficulty opening and closing it. She needed an aid to help her reach it. One complication was that the window handle included a locking button.

First, a long handled device with a universal joint at the window end was tried. The client found it difficult to manipulate this device onto the window handle. However she was able to control opening/closing without actuating the locking button, so an additional mechanism to operate the button was not required.



DB-104-17, Chris Morison & Ben Wright

A two year old boy with complex problems needed an easily moveable support system to enable him to bounce - as in a baby bouncer.

At the initial visit to his home it was concluded that the ideal position for a bouncer was underneath the open plan stairs on the first floor landing.

Ben Wright created a design consisting of an anchoring beam that was attached to the underside of the stairs and a support for the seat incorporating two spring units. Their ratings allowed for the child to double in weight. The support web straps also allowed for height growth.



DB-095-17, Robert Little

This man was only able to move his short arms a little so he had difficulty with washing and shaving. He needed adjustable devices in his shower so that he could do these tasks independantly. He was advised about a commercial long handled bathing brush which he then bought online.

Remap modified a long handled shoe-horn to include a foam and velcro holder at the end. This enabled him to slot his electric shaver into it and shave himself.



DB-128-17, John Gellatly

This wheelchair bound schoolboy needed a wooden box seat to sit on and to help strengthen his back. This requirement was similar to a previously made seat with an additional requirement of being height adjustable to ensure that he would sit in a correct position as he grew.

The original box was used as a template. The new box was a simple screwed and glued frame with plywood sides and top. The load was transferred through the four legs rather than the plywood panels to provide a stronger more rigid structure. Two extra 50mm inserts were fitted to enable the overall box height to be raised., The top was covered with a high density EVA foam mat to provide some comfort when he sat on it



DB-116-17, Mike Banks

An elderly stroke victim needed a tailored hand rail to help him enter and leave his shower.

A horizontal tubular rail bolted on to a vertical rectangular section steel mounting was made. This unit was attached to the built-in shelving system to the left of the shower entrance.

At a convenient height, a 40mm thick shelf provided a strong anchor point to take the main applied loads. In addition a steadying point was created adjacent to the shelf below.



The rectangular section steel mounting included a series of attachment holes to allow the rail to be height adjustable. All steel work was powder-coated white and plastic end caps fitted to the RHS.

DB-111-17, Vic Brown

This very small girl with dwarfism wished to be able to use the toilet and access the pedestal sink in the bathroom on her own.

A set of steps were made that enabled her to achieve both aims. They were made of 15mm redwood plywood and had two fixed steps, the second one being deep so that she could safely turn around when accessing the toilet, and a further step at the top, hinged so that when she used the toilet it could be folded down out of the way.



When accessing the sink the top step was raised up and a support bar slid through nylon bushes on each side beneath the step and locked in position. The steps were covered with 5mm thick dense foam for comfort and safety. The 25mm dia. handrail was designed so that it could be used horizontally for the toilet and vertically for the sink. This was achieved by pivoting the handrail via a slotted plate welded at the bottom of the tube. This allowed the handrail to be raised from the horizontal position and located onto a vertical steel dowel and locked in position by a wingnut.



DB-129-17, Malcolm Logan

A very small boy with learning difficulties was looked after for brief periods by a foster family. He slept in the lower bed of a set of bunkbeds. There were concerns that he might try to climb up to the top bunk so a device was needed to prevent him getting up the integrated steps to access the top bunk bed

A board was made that laid flush over the inclined steps. It hooked over a highest step and was secured at the lowest point with Velcro.

When in position the board made it impossible for the child to climb up them.



DB-005-18, Allan Sutton

An elderly lady who suffered from arthritic movement problems was unable to press the small flush lever on her toilet because of its size and position. A modification was required to enable her to operate it.

A standard replacement lever was bought and extended using a length of 18mm wooden dowel. Wood was used, rather than metal, to keep the weight down and so not upset the system balance. The wood was given several coats of chrome paint to protect it and to make it blend in. The extra length gave much more leverage and allowed her to operate the flush.

The adjacent wall prevented the lever being extended sideways so it was turned through 90° so it protruded above the top of the cistern. To flush the toilet the lever was simply pushed sideways. The client found it easy to operate.

A rubber bung was also bonded to the top of the cistern with double-sided sticky tape to stop the raised toilet seat lid contacting the handle.

A waterproof notice was also bonded to the cistern lid showing visitors the direction to flush.

