



Fire Safety Assessment Project Pilot Case Study



I work for Bon Accord Care as a Support Worker which involves me visiting around 6 very different Service Users each day to ensure they receive the tailored care they need. There is a lot to do and think about when providing care at home and when I heard that we were going to attend fire safety awareness training it made me wonder why we were having to go to this?

Prior to attending fire risk recognition training my knowledge on fire safety was limited. The training, delivered by the fire service, really opened my eyes and made me think carefully about some of the Service Users I visited, life styles they led and dangerous habits they practiced.

During the training a Fire Safety Assessment form was shown to us and explained. We were told how to get in touch with the fire service if we had any concerns about Service Users being at risk from fire and the benefits of a Home fire Safety Visit.

Taking this new knowledge out with me into the community, when visiting Service Users I thought differently about their safety within the home.

About 3 weeks after receiving the training I visited a new Service User, an elderly frail gentleman who lived on his own in the community who had reduced mobility and poor dexterity in his hands. He struggled with many tasks at home which required the use of his hands, including washing and dressing, cooking, eating drinking and smoking his cigarettes.

During that mornings personal care visit I noticed a cigarette burn mark beside his bed. On seeing this I spoke to the Service User about the dangers of smoking in bed, the concerns I had and the support that the fire service could offer.

I took the Fire Safety Assessment form from the Service Users Care Plan and showed it to him. With his agreement I dialled the 0800 number that was on the assessment form and shared my concerns with the fire service, I gave my number as point of contact for the visit to be organised as recommended during the training.

Making the phone call was simple and took no time at all. About 3 days later a member of the community safety team called me to organise a visit which took place within a week of my initial phone call. What a good service.

The Home Fire Safety Visit was completed by 2 Community fire members of staff and took about 35 minutes. They were very thorough giving helpful advice and made a referral to community alarms requesting an additional linked smoked detector to be fitted into the bedroom. They also issued fire retardant bedding and a throw for his armchair in the living room.

The visit improved the safety of the Service User and gave me confidence that I had taken the right steps by organising for a Home Fire Safety Visit.

I would defiantly recommend the training available to other support workers and a Home Fire Safety Visit for people at risk from fire.