

## 1. ABOUT THE PERSON

Ted is an 87 year old gentleman living in Portsmouth, though he spent a number of years living in London.

He travelled extensively with Peter, his partner of over forty years and latterly he devoted all his time to caring for him when he developed dementia.

Ted is an Army Veteran and after his National Service he worked as a chef and a steward on the Orient Express.

He was a keen ballroom dancer and reached a performance level standard.

Ted used to do a great deal of knitting and embroidery, as did Peter. He still has several complex tapestries which Peter painstakingly completed.

DIY was also one of his hobbies and he loved to make household items from wood.

Ted has wonderful memories of his life with Peter and of their incredible adventures.



## 2. WHAT WAS THE SITUATION

Ted came in to the Centre looking so vulnerable and visibly shaking.

He said he had come for the Over 50s Club he was told took place here on a Friday morning. Tina (Close Encounters Supporter) apologized, saying he had been misinformed, but that we do have a friendly café and events like bingo, a quiz, board games and Veterans' events.

Tina also told him about the Close Encounters Project and how we could help him look for groups and activities in the area and conduct a Benefit Check.

Ted was rather emotional saying he had become afraid to leave his home since having his wallet stolen in Southsea earlier in the year.

He also had anxiety and depression since the loss of his beloved, Peter. His health had deteriorated, now having arthritis, cataracts and poor hearing, further contributing to his feelings of loneliness and isolation.

Added to all this, his boiler had been condemned and although it partially emitted heat, he was afraid to turn it on as the plumber refused to issue a Safety Certificate.

Tina arranged to meet up again to explore local groups/activities and assured him that we would do our utmost to make sure he had hot water and heating by making contact with the ECHO Scheme Team at PCC.

### **3. WHAT DID AGE UK DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?**

Tina contacted the ECHO Team via LEAP at Portsmouth City Council to arrange for an assessment; a few days later Ted was delighted to report that a brand new Boiler had been installed!

An Attendance Allowance Form was completed and submitted to the DWP resulting in Ted being awarded the Higher Rate Benefit, which in his own words means he “will not have to count every penny and worry each week.”

We have arranged to apply for a Blue Badge which will afford Ted more independence when he is out and about, especially when his friend visits from Italy.

Ted has been along to our Close Encounters lunches and has “hit it off” with several members of the group; he has commented on what a great pleasure it has been to discuss his great passion for food, the arts and theatre with like-minded people and they have exchanged contact details.

He has also reiterated that he would be only too keen to offer support and advice to any older people who may be struggling with their sexuality as he can offer empathy, sensitivity and above all friendship.

Ted came along to our weekly knitting club and has straight away made friends, even offering to teach.

### **4. WHAT OUTCOMES WERE ACHIEVED?**

Financial security

Safety and security at home

Increased social engagement

Offering peer to peer support- Ted wants to give back to AUKP and has offered to help others struggling with their sexuality, even meeting them at the centre if they wish.

### **5. QUOTES/FEEDBACK**

“I was so anxious about coming in but I’m so glad I did! Thank you so much for being so kind”

“This was serendipity! It really is fate! I nearly didn’t come in!”

“What you have done for me really has changed my life! You have no idea how happy I am now!”