

Press Release

NHS Trust employee assists on BBC's DIY SOS

A community occupational therapist for Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust has assisted BBC's DIY SOS production team on an episode which airs on the 17th Feb.

Jane Trevorrow, who has 10 years' experience with the Trust, was given the opportunity to work on DIY SOS where Nick Knowles and an army of voluntary local trades, family and friends help transform the homes of families across Britain.

The episode focusses on adapting the home of Antonia, then 17, from Eckington, who hasn't been able to leave hospital for over 2 years as her home is inappropriate for the complexity of her condition. Jane, who has been working with the family since 2014, has a continued input into the specialist equipment that Antonia requires as part of her role as a community occupational therapist.

Occupational therapists work with families and carers to identify areas of difficulty with daily living tasks, including; washing, dressing, cooking and getting on and off a bed, toilet or chair. They advise patients on how to carry out tasks more easily and suggest equipment that can assist them, give information on disabilities and conditions and plan both minor and major adaptations to homes.

The major adaptations to homes are funded by a Disabled Facilities Grant. Jane also works with the housing department in Wychavon and Care and Repair – a charity that coordinate the grant given for the adaptations to take place.

The adaptations needed for Antonia were so major that the grant did not cover the cost, which led the family to contacting the BBC show, which proved successful.

Jane helped the production team design and implement environmental changes behind the scenes by providing information, recommending adaptations and equipment, signposting to specialist services, approving plans and creating a wish list to provide Antonia with the chance to be as independent as possible. Although Jane does not appear on the show, her input was crucial to aid Antonia's discharge from hospital.

Jane Trevorrow, said: *"I love my job as a community occupational therapist as no two days are the same and I get to help a range of people of different ages with a variety of conditions."*

Working with the DIY SOS production team was a unique, intense experience which although time consuming, proved very satisfying and the end result allowed the patient to come home after over 2 years in hospital."

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