

Just Roaming: Technology Saves Lives

Video of Just Roaming Pilot Open Day
Clackmannanshire and Stirling Health and Social Care Partnership
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Key Points

- Technology helps to save lives - smoke detectors have been key in reducing fire deaths
- The key to fire safety is minimising risk of fire in the first place and having the right response in place in case of fire - staff training, evacuation procedures, prioritising rescue efforts.

Transcript

Alan Faulds

Technology has helped to save lives. Smoke detectors save lives because when we started fitting smoke detectors ten years ago, we thought, yes, it's a big investment for the fire service nationally, what's it going to do? Is it going to save lives? It doesn't put a fire out, it doesn't, but it tells you you've got a fire. But we've moved on from that because we've now got these new adapted technologies that do work in our homes. And this is where you come in.

It's not just technology for technology sake, it's making a place safe. And if you minimise the risks that are in a home, or if you minimise the risk to the person, or the person causing it, then you reduce fire injuries and fire deaths.

To do that, we need to establish a person-centred approach, tailor made for each resident. And I think that's really, really important. We can't blanket coverage every organisation with the same rules, regulations, and equipment. It has to be to the person. It absolutely has to be. And I was quite impressed by the fact when you were showing us that you go in and you spend time and you find out how much the person gets up or goes to the toilet, or does this, that, and the next thing. And how you actually tailor it. I think that has to be done.

Okay, high-risk residents need a person-centred fire risk assessment. So, as part of the whole duty of care towards a resident in any kind of place, is making sure. As well as all those other things that we do, their medical care, all that kind of stuff, we have to make sure that the fire risks have treated as well, and make sure that they're not at risk of a fire incident.

The capacity of a resident to respond to recognising the fire alarm or a fire system. Now, that's really important. Because if the person who is in the place doesn't recognise what that noise is, they'll just stay where they are, or they may get frightened. They may hide.

So, this is where, as part of our risk assessment, the person has... The organisation has to identify, well, what's the best course of action for that person. Is it evacuating them right away? And this is

where Just Roaming can come in because the person who is controlling that knows that person is at risk of doing something like that, so then, go straight to them. And that's just one example of using technology like Just Roaming.

Has the resident got the ability to escape? Now, that's really important. I do lots of home fire safety checks. Our department does loads of home fire safety checks. And I know, people say to me, yes, I could get out of a building no bother. And you say but, you're in a wheelchair, how are you going to get out easily? So, it's identifying how a person is getting out of a building and are they able to get out of a building. Again, where a system like Just Roaming would come in is the staff would know who to prioritise, and I think that's the main thing... It's the priority of the people in the building. And the staff should know what to do in all situations. And that comes down to training.

What do we prioritise? I think that's the most important thing. What are we going to prioritise? Well, my suggestion is prioritising the person. Don't prioritise the equipment that's available because that will take care of itself. You've got to prioritise the person, and then you gauge everything that you're going to put into that person's home to how the person is, rather than the other way about. Rather than thinking, I've got £1,000 budget, what can I buy for that £1,000? It shouldn't be like that.

It should be, the person's there, what does that person actually need? The risk should be person-centred. Staff should understand what risk recognition is. And I know I keep going on about that, but staff training is free. Staff training is free. We'll come out and train your staff free on risk recognition. Get us out to get a feel of the building. See if it's a big, big building.

We've probably never been there before. Get us out to have a feel of it. Walk around. Show us the particular problems that you've got. Have you got residents? Are there residents that can't get out? Or are there residents who, because of their nature, get frightened or don't have an understanding of what the noises are and what they should be doing. Get us out to give you advice. Get us out to get a feel of the building and understand. It just makes you all safer.

Times change. Technology changes. And I'll emphasise it again, technology saves lives. Use it but use the right stuff.