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# Press Release



**For Immediate Release**

## **Telecare at the Heart of Preventative Social Care Agenda**

Oldham Council in the UK is using individually allocated health budgets to mainstream telecare in the community.

Focused on preventative social care, Oldham Council has incorporated telecare because of its ability to provide best quality care to more people for less money.

Telecare provides constant reassurance and support to Oldham's residents, ensuring timely assistance is available when needed while still allowing residents to maintain their dignity, freedom and independence.

An independent evaluation carried out by Lancaster University on the introduction of individual budgets across pilot sites found that 86% of service users reported an improved quality of life, and 72% said they had a greater level of choice and control in their lives as a result of receiving self directed support.

Oldham currently provides telecare services to 4500 residents, and the decision to mainstream individual budgets is part of its prevention agenda and commitment to delivering more flexible, person-centred care within the community setting.

The Council is working with service users at an earlier stage to support their independence in their homes and communities, improving their quality of life and at the same time reducing admissions to hospital and residential care.

Beverley Maybury, head of modernisation adult services at Oldham Council believes individual budgets have enabled a radical transformation of social care in Oldham.

“(The individual budgets) have involved supporting people with much more flexible services in a cost effective way” Ms Maybury said.

“This has enabled us to invest in prevention, and telecare has played a key role because although we have made significant efficiencies in being more flexible with people’s needs, we have reinvested that money in low level preventative services”.

Service user feedback to Oldham Council has shown that providing even a basic telecare system greatly increases feelings of safety, by providing 24 hour reassurance.

It also enables users to become familiar with the technology before installing additional sensors as circumstances change.

In order to allow people to try available technologies, Oldham Council has also established a Centre for Independent Living, incorporating a suite of rooms that have telecare installed and trained assessors are on hand to assist if required.

One service user in Oldham has Asperser’s Syndrome and has recently moved into his own home. The Individual Budget has funded his telecare system including a property exit sensor, which means that if he leaves home at unusual times of the day or for lengthy periods, a carer or relative will be alerted, ensuring support is on hand when needed, without restricting his independence.

At present the Australian government provides little funding for telecare in the home even though telecare provides community based preventative care at a fraction of the cost of hospital based care.

Tunstall Healthcare is regularly communicating with the government to encourage the use of telecare to assist the frail and vulnerable members of our community.

To find out more about Tunstall telecare, visit [www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au](http://www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au) or call 1300 760 333.

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If you require any additional information or images please contact Lauren Tucker, Marketing Coordinator 07 3637 2200, [lauren.tucker@tunstallap.com](mailto:lauren.tucker@tunstallap.com)  
For more product information, case studies and latest news visit [tunstallhealthcare.com.au](http://tunstallhealthcare.com.au)

### **About Tunstall Healthcare**

With over 2.5 million users globally, Tunstall is the market leading provider of telecare and telehealth solutions. Across Australia Tunstall’s solutions support older people and those with long term needs to live independently, by effectively managing their health and wellbeing. Tunstall provides technology, expertise and advice to millions of people enabling them to lead independent more fulfilling lives. For more information on how telecare and telehealth can improve quality of life, visit [www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au](http://www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au)