

## Opening the door to choice



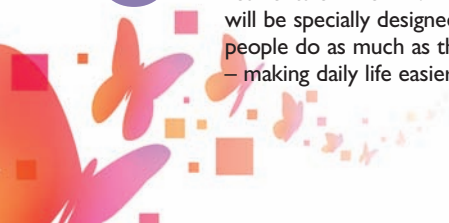
*“Bev can open her curtains, or make a phone call at the touch of a button – it is making a huge difference to her life”*

# Case Study

Life can be full of simple choices – like picking up the phone to call a friend if you fancy a chat or choosing to cook dinner when you’re feeling hungry. However, what if you had to rely on others to help you do these everyday tasks?

For many of the disabled residents at The Hill – our residential care home in Sandbach, Cheshire – this is their reality. Mother-of-two Bev was only 30 when she sustained a brain stem stroke that left her unable to walk or use her hands. Bev has lived at The Hill for the past 12 years and she relies on a carer to do simple things that many of us often take for granted – like turning the lights on, or opening the door. Unsurprisingly, Bev often finds this lack of independence incredibly frustrating and upsetting.

That is why, as part the ongoing redevelopment programme, Leonard Cheshire Disability is building a new home for the residents of The Hill. This 21st century facility will be specially designed to help disabled people do as much as they can for themselves – making daily life easier for residents like Bev.





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## **Living With Greater Independence**

Bev has been trying out a basic form of assistive technology called a Possum. This device - a bit like a TV remote control – can be used to operate almost anything electrical in her room. Now Bev can open her curtains, or make a phone call at the touch of a button – it is making a huge difference to her life.

This new technology allowed Bev to call her children unaided for the first time since her stroke. When she made the call, she was so happy she actually cried, and her daughters were in tears too as soon as they heard her voice. There's no doubt this call was important, because previously if Bev wanted to speak to her children it meant someone else making the call and being there while she was talking. Now she can call her daughters and catch up whenever she wants.

Bev is really looking forward to the new home which will ensure that she'll be able to live life the way she wants.

The Hill is just one of the residential care homes that Leonard Cheshire are refurbishing as part of their redevelopment programme. But rely on donations from their supporters to help us continue this vital work. To make a donation please contact:

*W: <http://donate.lcdisability.org/>*

*T: 020 3242 0200*

*E: [info@LCDisability.org](mailto:info@LCDisability.org)*

## **Contact Possum at**

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