

Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association Home Enablement Project

We are delighted to announce that we were part of three regional **Care & Repair/Handyperson Services** to share a funding award of a million pounds over a three year period to provide customised support services for people affected by dementia.

The **Life Changes Trust** is an independent charity, established in April 2013 with a £30 million endowment from the **Big Lottery Fund**. The Trust's mission is to drive transformational improvements in the quality of life, well-being, empowerment and inclusion of two key groups in Scotland; people affected by dementia and care experienced young people.



The priorities of the Trust are:

- Priority 1:** Enable people affected by dementia to live in a place that suits them and their needs
- Priority 2:** Protect and promote the independence of people affected by dementia
- Priority 3:** Support work that will guarantee that people affected by dementia get the help they need when they need it
- Priority 4:** Create a culture in Scotland where people affected by dementia feel safe, listened to, valued and respected
- Priority 5:** Empower people affected by dementia so that they can do the things that are important to them

Lochalsh & Skye Care & Repair/Handyperson Services have been assisting older and disabled homeowners in Skye and Lochalsh with major adaptations, home improvements and repairs to their homes for almost 30 years.

This money will be used to improve the homes, independence and confidence of people living with dementia, ensuring that they receive equipment and adaptations to assist them to continue to live independently within their own homes for as long as possible.

For people living with dementia, the need for equipment or adaptations can arise from a change in how they perceive their surroundings as a symptom of dementia – a flat path may appear slanted or a patterned carpet could cause dizziness and disorientation.

Adaptions can range from fitting handrails, improving lighting, changing floor coverings, removal or repositioning of mirrors, mounting signage on doors to give clearer direction and highlighting light switches and electrical sockets.

Small changes to the home environment like these have been shown to reduce falls, accidents and confusion. This can lead to an increase in confidence and independence and even better physical health.

Following a home suitability assessment, a tailor-made action plan will be agreed with each individual client based on dementia design guidance to be carried out in the coming weeks or months as required.

The service is free and is offered to anyone affected by dementia (pre- or post-diagnosis) their families and carers. For more information about the project or to apply for a home visit by our Handypersons for yourself or someone you care for please call **01478 612035** or send an email to **Info@LSHA.co.uk**.

