

Information on Telecare

Telecare was launched in Southend on 14th June 2007. The reason for the implementation of Telecare, which is part of the assistive technology range, in Southend is to:

- Help keep people safer and independent
- Reduces admissions to acute hospitals
- Facilitates prompt and appropriate discharge
- Improves quality of life by providing a safer home environment for individuals to live in
- Enable individuals to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible.

Telecare is the continuous automatic and remote monitoring of real time emergencies and lifestyle changes over time in order to manage the risks associated with independent living.

The Telecare system ensures that a minor event does not turn into a crisis by making sure that when something significant happens an alarm is raised and an appropriate response is provided promptly.

It is an integral tool in times when people with long - term health and care needs wish to be empowered to choose where they live, have control over the services they receive, and the freedom to live life to the full.

There are three key elements to a Telecare service

- Telecare sensors – these raise an alarm when required. They are generally battery powered and signal wirelessly.
- Appropriate responder to the alarm – may be the service user themselves, or provided remotely via family, friend, carer or emergency services.
- On site care or monitoring centre – to receive alarm calls and generate a response.

Telecare can help to reduce the personal and environmental risks associated with independent living. There are many areas of risk which can be minimised.

- Falls
- Purposeful walking (wandering)
- Inactivity
- Health changes
- Medication compliance
- General prompts
- Safety and Security

To date, 1,497 packages have been installed which can consist of more than one sensor. In 2012/13 1,213 quality control visits were carried out to change batteries, exchanged faulty sensors etc. The monitoring of packages is carried out by South Essex Homes at a cost of £3.77 per week. In 2012/13, approximately £14,000 was spent on telecare equipment.

Currently on loan is the following number of sensors:

	No.
Bed Occupancy Sensor Pad	9
Bed Occupancy Pad (Wide)	20
Bogus Caller Button	60
Chair Occupancy SensorPad	3
Fall Detector	554
Flood Detector	105
PIR Movement Detector	1
Occupancy Control Box	31
Property Exit Sensor	40
Pull Cord Radio	16
Smoke Detector	276
Temp Extreme 35 Degrees	28
Time Extender	0
X10 Light Module Control	4
X10 Main Controller	3
Carbon Monoxide Sensor	211
Key Safe	434

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