Mr. & Mrs. Martin

Mr. Martin lives in a three bed room detached house with his wife Debbie, a retired school teacher, Mr. Martin is 75 years old and his wife who is 72 years old have been married for 51 years and have lived in the same community most of their lives. The married couple are settled and happy. However, Mrs. Martin has developed dementia and as a result, began wandering during visits to shopping centres which has resulted in a great deal of anxiety for Mr. Martin as well as risk to her safety.

Mr. Martin was told about the carer smart phone/tracker with gps technology by his social worker, which could be used when the couple were out at shopping centres. He was very keen to try the devise as Mrs. Martin would wander off when he visited the gentleman’s rest room. The tracker system supported with this as it allowed Mr. Martin to locate Mrs. Martin quickly and minimise attention to others including security staff who would often use tannoy announcements within the centre to alert Mrs Martin and others that she was missing. Mrs Martin, unaware she might be lost, was alarmed when security staff did find her as this drew unwanted attention and she would not understand due to lacking insight into her condition.

The alternative might have been for Mrs and Mr Martin to jointly use a disabled toilet facility where Mr Martin could keep an eye on her. This may often be the only options for people but would not necessarily preserve either of their privacy or dignity.

This way Mrs Martin is allowed her freedom to walk around, like you or I, and Mr Martin is reassured that she is taking a positive risk and the risk of her coming to harm is managed by knowing exactly where she is and being able to support her without alarming her.

The device has proved to be very helpful to the couple and has helped Mr. & Mrs. Martin to maintain their dignity. The tracker costs around £200 and is compatible with a smart phone devise.