Working for Carers Factsheet
Assistive Technology

Assistive technology can give you additional reassurance about the safety of the person you are looking after, when you're not with them.

Falls detector

- A pendant alarm sensor that the person you care for wears
- The pendant will alert a 24-hour call centre when the person wearing it has fallen

Door alarm sensor

- An alarm system that is connected to the front door of the person you look after
- The alarm will alert a 24-hour call centre when the person has left their home
- Some systems have bed sensors to alert when the person has left their bed

Camera

- A camera can help you check-in on the safety of the person you care for during the day and night
- This can also provide additional security from intruders
- The cared-for should always be consulted before cameras are installed

Phone

- A smartphone can be useful to keep up with caring tasks and share duties with others
- Smartphone apps *(eg. Jointly)* can hold useful information about the person you are caring for - such as tasks, medical notes and the ability to share group messages
- Special feature phones can amplify calls, provide large text buttons, or give photo picture buttons of friends and family for anyone who may have difficulty dialling numbers

Smart home device

- A smart home device enables you to support someone remotely
- Devices can control lights, heating, kitchen appliances and washing machines without you being in the house
- Some devices can be used with voice control, so the person you care for doesn't have to get up

Top Tip

You need an internet connection to use smart home devices.

Electronic pill dispenser

- An electronic pill dispenser can be pre-filled with medication and will unlock with an alert at a selected time
- This is a type of safe medication management, and will help the cared-for take the correct medication, dosage and at the right time of day
- Some dispensers connect to a call centre, who will be notified if the medication hadn't been taken

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Carer centres

North Tyneside Carers' Centre is your local carer's centre if the person you support lives in North Tyneside.

0191 249 6480 enquiries@ntcarers.co.uk www.northtynesidecarers.org.uk

Newcastle Carers is your local carer's centre if the person you support lives in Newcastle.

0191 275 5060 info@newcastlecarers.org.uk www.newcastlecarers.org.uk

Carers Northumberland is your local carer's centre if the person you support lives in Northumberland.

01670 320 025 info@carersnorthumberland.org.uk www.carersnorthumberland.org.uk

Useful resources

Carers UK Digital Resources for Carers has in-depth guides on different technology and how it can support you in your caring role.

www.carersdigital.org

Ostara provides and installs alarm equipment in Newcastle, connecting to a 24-hour response centre.

www.ostara.newcastle.gov.uk/newcastles-telecare-and-response-service

Care Call is a 24-hour support service for North Tyneside residents who need additional security at home.

0330 333 7475 care.call@northtyneside.gov.uk

Northumberland Telecare offers community alarms and telecare sensors, matched to individual needs.

01670 827 100 telecare@northumberland.gov.uk

Contact your local carers centre for employability support through the Working for Carers project.

They can also help you find the right assistive technology for your caring role.

Working for Carers

Employment and educational support for unpaid carers

A partnership between Newcastle Carers, North Tyneside Carers' Centre, and Carers Northumberland.

This project is funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with the North East Combined Authority as the lead.

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