

Louise's Story **Thame**

Moving out of the family home can be an emotional experience for parents and children alike. We met up with Louise and Gill who explained their relationship before and after Louise became a homeowner, and the huge differences it's made.



As Gill, her mum puts it “Well, Louise is an adult now and living at home it was like a mother/child relationship. Since she’s moved out the relationship has developed into more into a friendship, as it has with my other children. It’s allowed Louise to make decisions herself which haven’t really impinged on my decisions so we can live differently without it being a conflict between us”.

Positive, confident and comfortable, it’s clear to see the impact that it’s had on Louise, even before she explains what owning her own home means to her “I’m very, very happy and I love showing off my house to all my friends and family. It’s my heaven and my world” she says, beaming the biggest smile imaginable.

Of course there was that inevitable wrench though, especially for mum. “It’s been really quite difficult at times, losing that protective role, but it’s meant that I’ve been able to see Louise become more independent and blossom in her own right and make her own decisions which has been good and that’s actually helped me to have more freedom. I can now arrange to go away without worrying about the arrangements for Louise because I know that there are people here in place to support her and I can go away for a holiday without having to think, or even for an evening out without worrying about what arrangements there are for Louise.”

But, thinking back to taking the first steps to home ownership for Louise, wasn't Gill concerned about the process? "Yes there was a time when I was concerned, obviously it's a big step to have a mortgage and own your own home but MySafeHome were very reassuring and had been through the process with other people before. So they just made me confident that it would work and it would be a long-term thing."

Speaking of long-term, Gill explains how the relationship with the MySafeHome team has extended far beyond her expectations "It wasn't like they were just organising it and we would sign the papers and it would all happen. They were reassuring that they would keep an eye on everything and they would monitor the payment of the mortgage, review it every three months and just keep us informed. In fact that has been brilliant because every three months or so we get a letter from them, confirming that they've been in touch with the building society and that the mortgage has been paid. I just feel that they're still there, keeping an eye on everything".

It's only fitting that the last words belong to Louise though. How does she now feel about her new life? "Well, I'm very happy. Me and mum aren't fighting anymore. We became friends after I moved out and it makes everything better between me and my mum. It's really cool".

For more information about MySafeHome and home ownership for people with a disability call us on 08000 121333, email enquiries@mysafehome.info or visit www.mysafehome.info