

**Sarah and her mum Jackie.  
Leatherhead, Surrey**

*Sarah, who has Aspergers Syndrome (a form of Autism), and her mum Jackie have become two of our most passionate supporters, even attending a number of events and conferences to give a moving presentation about how their lives has been changed through something as simple as home ownership. We caught up with both of them to see for ourselves the impact that it's had.*



“Now Sarah’s living in her own home she’s much more confident and she’s leading her own life now. It’s the confidence that’s the main thing, it’s wonderful to see” explains Jackie.

“I feel now that I can do a few more things on my own. I go to the gym and I feel more confident than I did a year ago” adds Sarah “I can do a little bit of cooking on my own but there’s some things I can’t do, so I do get some support for that and some help with housekeeping”.

So how was the process of applying for a mortgage through MySafeHome? “Well I thought they explained their situation very well” Jackie recalls “When you’re embarking on this process of getting a mortgage and you know it’s going to be paid by benefits you’re quite sceptical. But MySafeHome really were very, very reassuring and I thought they were marvellous”. What helped Jackie and her family overcome their scepticism? “By just going through the process, step by step, however many times we wanted to ask questions they were always happy to answer them. And we did ask questions. Over and over again!”

But Jackie wasn't just reassured by the patience and understanding of the MySafeHome team, "Because of their links with the mortgage companies and because their speciality was with people with disabilities I felt quite confident and very positive. They built up a sense of trust".

Over a year later and Jackie's as passionate as ever about Sarah's right to live independently, "It's wonderful to see that Sarah's able to own her own home and have the same independence and same rights that her brother has. Her brother bought his own home at roughly the same time and there's no reason why Sarah shouldn't have the same rights and paths to independence as her brother'.

It's clear that Sarah's now able to look forward to a future that's every bit as exciting as any other young person's. But what of the future for Jackie? 'Well I can start leading a more independent life myself" she reflects "I'm not worrying about Sarah all the time, because I know she's safe and secure now with all of the team around her. I'm always there if she needs me, but I'm learning to live my own life now too".

*For more information about MySafeHome and home ownership for people with a disability call us on 08000 121333, email [enquiries@mysafehome.info](mailto:enquiries@mysafehome.info) or visit [www.mysafehome.info](http://www.mysafehome.info)*