



# Overcoming barriers to assistive technology

**Sarah Weston**  
**Hft**

**4 October 2018**



# Overcoming barriers – staff and professionals

Hft Clementi Court: supports eight individuals with very complex needs

The main challenges for individuals are:

- Limited communication skills
- Lack of independence, due to complex physical needs

Technology was identified as a solution that could support with enhancing people's communication, independence and safety.



# Overcoming barriers – staff and professionals

The issues:

- Staff fear of technology
- Lack of accredited training
- Underestimating people's abilities

What did we do:

- Training
- Re-training
- Communication
- Trial and error





## Training barriers

### The issue:

- Very little accredited training in assistive technology exists in UK and Europe
- Staff don't have the time to complete

### The solution:

- Hft created two accredited units designed for part-time study in assistive technology
  - Trialled by Hft staff
  - Being piloted by a local college



## Training barriers

- Partner in ALTAS: Erasmus+ funded project to create European accredited course in assistive technology
  - Accredited units as part of nursing degrees at UK and Danish university
  - E-courses in Norway and Spain
  - UK exploring options for frontline social care