



WashPods

Temporary Accessible Wetrooms

Newsletter | Issue One
From Dignity Access



WashPod Stencils

Sometimes the simplest tools can have the biggest impact. Our new WashPod stencil sets allow clients to step into a layout and truly feel the space. Each of our site survey teams now carries a stencil corresponding to each WashPod model, which can be laid out on the ground - even in a garden if needed - to help clients experience the space before installation.

This was incredibly helpful recently for Ian, a wheelchair user in Leeds. By trying out the Internal Compact WashPod stencil, Ian could assess turning circles and orientation ahead of the installation. His OT, Sarah Ellis, commented:

“The stencil has allowed us all to get a real feel for the space needed. It also helped us explore different orientations to avoid blocking kitchen light. It was really useful to work with.”



CASE STUDY
CASE STUDY
CASE STUDY

REUSABILITY IN ACTION: CHRISTINE'S STORY

Christine, who has Motor Neurone Disease, shared her experience:

"The fact that a WashPod can be re-used by councils feels like a gold standard approach worth wider publicity."



**"IT'S HARD TO QUANTIFY HOW VALUABLE
THAT PEACE OF MIND IS"**

Like many in similar situations, Christine faced a short timeline and limited options. With a mortgage, unsuitable home, and delays in planning approvals, a property conversion was simply unfeasible.

Thanks to a reusable WashPod funded through disability grants, she avoided costly renovations and can now focus on creating a comfortable downstairs living space —without the stress of a full conversion.

"It's hard to quantify how valuable that peace of mind is," she added.



STROKE month AWARENESS

May marked Stroke Awareness Month, and we're reminded how crucial early intervention is. The Mini WashPod made a real difference to Alice and her family when her mother suffered a severe stroke.

F Face
A Arm
S Speech
T Time

"The Mini WashPod helped us get Mum back into her own home - keeping her in familiar surroundings while supporting her independence."

FAST – Face, Arm, Speech and Time are the key things to consider. In the time it takes you to read this newsletter, someone in the UK will have had a stroke.



In the time it takes you to read this post, someone in the UK will have had a stroke.

Saffron's Road to Recovery



Saffron is now continuing her rehabilitation at home, surrounded by loved ones and her horses, and is even pursuing a new path in sports commentating and competitive wheelchair racing.

“Life does not end with spinal cord injury. It’s the beginning of a new life—a new normal life.”

LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

A devastating fall at the Defender Bramham Horse Trials left 23-year-old international event rider Saffron Cresswell paralysed from the waist down. After months of hospital rehabilitation, she was only able to return home thanks to a WashPod funded by the British Eventing Support Trust.

“I would still be in hospital if I hadn’t been able to wash myself at home. The WashPod gave me a head start on independence.”

Dignity Access



“I’m very lucky to have support from the charity BE Support Trust, and from friends and family who are fundraising for me, so I that I have been able to continue the rehab at home. I know rehabilitation is an ongoing process that will never really stop.

Saffron is positive about the future and is hoping to pursue a career in sports commentating while enjoying competitive wheelchair racing to keep her ambitious spark alive.

“Life does not end with spinal cord injury” she says. “It is the beginning of a new life - a new normal life.”

-Saffron Creswell

“IT IS THE BEGINING OF A NEW LIFE. A NEW NORMAL LIFE.”

The BE Support Trust was founded in 2021 to provide medical, financial and mental health support to British Eventing members who compete.

The Yorkshire Regional Spinal Injuries Centre (YRSIC) is a purpose built, 34-bed centre with dedicated rehabilitation facilities.





Dignity Access

Procurement Made Easy: Dignity Access on PFH DPS

Dignity Access is a registered supplier on the Procurement for Housing Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Supply of Specialist Materials category. This gives Local Authorities a smoother route to procure our WashPods with confidence – ensuring best value, easy budgeting, and audit compliance.

We're also assisting councils with understanding how to fund WashPods sustainably – maximising grants like the DFG and Hospital Discharge Fund while taking full advantage of our Turnaround Service.

Talk to us if you'd like more information on the benefits of working with us through a procurement system.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

WAYS FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO FUND WASHPODS

Here are some routes currently in use across the UK:

- Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) – great for internal models like the Internal Compact.
- Underspent budgets – use funds before year-end deadlines.
- Procurement for Housing (DPS) – streamlines high-value purchases.
- Children with Disabilities Budgets – for bespoke family needs and allows the option to hire
- Hospital Discharge Fund – accelerates hospital discharges.



SPOTLIGHT ON

Cumberland Council



Cumberland Council used the LA Discharge Fund (part of the Better Care Fund) to buy 4 WashPods - 2 Internal Minis and 2 Internal Compacts.

Amanda Starr, Head of Housing & Social Inclusion, said:

“WashPods had been used by the authority before with great success. I really appreciated the value-added benefits of the Dignity Access Turnaround System that allows us to re-use the WashPods time and time again. It made great financial sense. but the WashPods also provide a solution that gives rapid installation times with reliability, quality and the maintenance included”.



**Cumberland
Council**

WASHPOD FINALIST AT OTEA 2025!



Dignity Access is a finalist in the Occupational Therapy Excellence Awards 2025 in the Excellence in Product Innovation category. This is a celebration of our team's dedication to creating impactful, high-quality, and reusable disabled wetroom solutions. The OTEA are UK-based, impartial and independent business awards for the whole OT sector.

WashPod Finalist
OTEA 2025



DFG High Cost Adaptations Summit

A vital event tackling complex DFG cases and funding strategies

We're presenting to solicitors and expert witnesses across OT, physio, and care sectors.



More from Dignity Access...

WashPod Featured in ADASS Report

We're proud that Bedford Borough Council's first WashPod installation was included in the Eastern Region ADASS Annual Report in their "What Are We Proud Of?" section. The case involved a lady with MND who wanted to remain in her home with dignity.

Our Turnaround Service made it possible to quickly reinstall the same pod for another client, saving time and resources.



Customer Spotlight: Billy Knight

"A massive thank you to WashPod for the excellent job installing a wetroom for my disabled son, Henry. This is a premium product that will be life-changing. I couldn't recommend them enough—professional from start to finish."



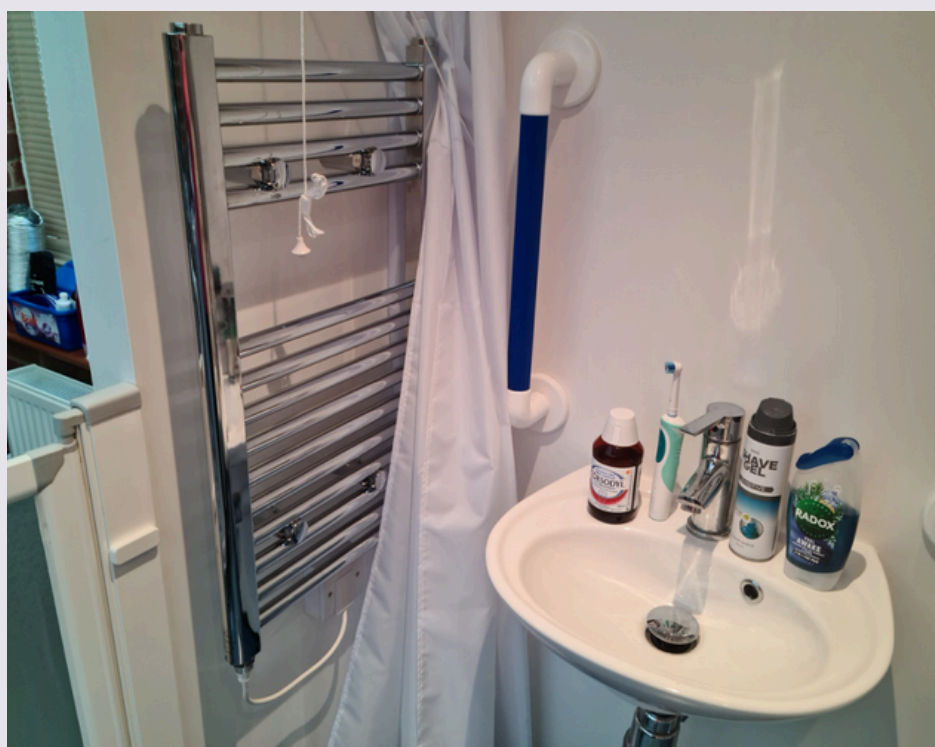
RCOT

Directory Featured Supplier

Dignity Access is a featured supplier in the Royal College of Occupational Therapists Directory - a go-to resource for trusted products and services tailored to OT needs. Our modular WashPods are easy to install, rent or buy and designed to suit most environments.



After the first use, our logistics, maintenance, storage and refurbishment are included in a fixed fee so that each re-use saves money without any property adaptations needed.



The Turnaround Service in Action

We have seen some great examples of our unique Turnaround Service at work for Local Authorities such as the rapid, re-use of an Internal Compact WashPod that was installed into a new property.

Originally, we installed this WashPod early in 2024 and removed when it was no longer needed, both in just a few hours. The Council had bought the WashPod with a DFG as 'specialised equipment' allowing them to retain ownership as the Housing Renewal Grants (Additional Conditions) General Consent 1996 entitles authorities to reclaim specialist equipment.