



Shopmobility

Background

Shopmobility is a national charity that aims to **“offer independence to people with limited mobility”**. The Sheffield branch has been running for many years and is a thriving hub of activity which is fuelled by the hard work and dedication of a small staff team and a core group of valued volunteers.

Amazing story

Michelle was a nurse in Sheffield for many years until she tragically fell ill through a faulty fire which gave her carbon monoxide poisoning. The poisoning was so severe that she was diagnosed as having a disability. Michelle’s legs were greatly weakened and her mobility was reduced massively. Unfortunately she was no longer able to work.

For several years Michelle was immobile and house bound- she describes those years as some of the most frustrating and lonely imaginable. **“I felt useless not even being able to go shopping or care for myself”** Michelle remembers. **“As far as I was concerned, I felt worthless, confined to my house and forgotten.”**

One day however, Michelle discovered Shopmobility. She took a brave decision to no longer be confined to her house and decided to hire one of their buggies so she could take herself shopping, rather than relying on friends and carers.

The impact on Michelle’s life was immediate. **“Through the amazing work of Shopmobility, I got my life back. My confidence grew and I started to feel as if I had self worth once again and could achieve things on my own,”** Michelle smiles.



PROFILE IN BRIEF

Shopmobility

Services offered:

- Offering independence to people with limited mobility
- Training and equipment safety guidance
- 3/4 wheeled Scoota and wheelchair hire

Who do you work with?

- Those living in or visiting Sheffield City Centre and Crystal Peaks
- Anyone that needs help with mobility
- Volunteers

Contact details:

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Getting involved

Because of this amazing turnaround for Michelle, she decided that she wanted to give back and started volunteering for Shopmobility. She started representing the Sheffield branch of the charity on different forums and committees, speaking at groups and promoting the valuable work to other people who had needs similar to her own.

Then after nearly twelve years of being out of work due to sickness, a job arose and Michelle became a paid worker for Shopmobility.

Michelle says that because of being a former nurse, she loves the opportunities she now has at Shopmobility, to use her skills in order to enrich people's lives, giving them back their independence and making an impact. Michelle enthuses about how exciting it is that **“just going out for a coffee with friends can be a possibility for people who have been locked away for years because of the valuable work of Shopmobility”**.

Shopmobility is a great charity that does a fantastic job at providing people that have limited mobility with the means and transport for them to go about their everyday, normal but essential lives. It gives people independence and freedom and is well known as a warm place to visit with a family feel where the team go out of their way to make sure the client is supported as fully as possible.



Looking Ahead

Project Manger Mark Arber reflects, **“We are really, really busy. Currently we have only 100 wheelchairs and we need at least 200 to meet the demand”**. Therefore Shopmobility are very keen to expand their stocks and increase their impact in order to relieve the suffering of the less mobile. Within the next 5 years they will be relocating to the two new city centre shopping developments, The Market and Seven Stones, which will be a great boost for them in comparison to their currently poorly placed sites at Eldon Street and Waingate. Funding is on its way for 30-40 new wheelchairs for the wheelchair loan service, however, much more are needed!

For more information about Shopmobility Sheffield, log onto their website at www.shopmobility-sheffield.org.uk or give Mark Arber a call on 0114 281 2278

