



Peter Allen

Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue

“In another two years I could have been quadriplegic. I've got the staff at Jubilee House to thank for that not being the case”



When Peter Allen is having a hard day dealing with the pain he lives in, he tells himself things could be very different if it weren't for a visit he made to our centre in Cumbria.

“In another 18 months or two years, I would possibly have become quadriplegic,” he says. “I've got the staff at Jubilee House to thank for that not being the case. They are the ones who saved me.”

A retired firefighter from Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Peter found himself experiencing increasing problems with mobility that were unusual for a healthy man in his 70s.

“I was stumbling, experiencing headaches, having problems with my legs, pain down my side and all sorts,” he says. “I'd been speaking to GPs and they couldn't find anything to account for it, so I applied for some rehabilitation at Jubilee House. That's when they came up trumps.”

After two days, Physiotherapist Alexis Dykes shared a suspicion that more was going on than first met the eye: “She said she thought I might have a neurological condition, which was news to me,” says Peter. “She contacted my GP and he arranged for me to have an MRI scan. To everyone's amazement, it showed I had cervical myelopathy. A few weeks later, I had a four-hour decompression surgery.”

Because it had gone undiagnosed for so long, the damage was unfortunately irreversible, but having found it when they did, surgeons did manage to prevent any further damage.

“The consultant said if I hadn't had the surgery, I would have ended up in a wheelchair,” he says. “As it is I have difficulty walking, but things could have been so much worse.”

www.firefighterscharity.org.uk/peter-allen

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