

# I am terrified I will die in the night because of

## Crippled Peter left stranded as round-the-clock care is slashed

**EXCLUSIVE**

**Lucy Johnston** HEALTH EDITOR

**P**ETER ADAMS, 63, crippled with muscular dystrophy, fears he may die because his round-the-clock care is being slashed to just a few hours a day.

In a case highlighting how government cuts are penalising the sick and vulnerable, wheelchair-bound Peter Adams has been told by his council he is entitled to only three and a half hours a day with two carers.

Mr Adams, 63, from Bognor Regis, was diagnosed with the progressive condition in 1990, says the move will "destroy" his life. He is also diabetic and does not have the strength to use lifesaving insulin "pen". He said: "I am terrified. If I have a diabetic attack in the night I could die and the carers may not find me until 12 hours later."

Why, in 2004 did the council give me three hours a day, seven days a week care? Now I am a lot worse, do they give me three hours a day?"

Mr Adams, a former parts salesman, was looked after by his mother until her death in 2004, aged 89.

Earlier that year, West Sussex County Council ended him a live-in carer.

The pressure group Muscular Dystrophy Campaign says his case is one of the most worrying to come to light.

Nic Bungay, director of care, said: "His case is shocking. Many councils don't understand rare conditions like muscular dystrophy. Peter's condition will get worse and his care needs will increase."

The group has recorded a 400 per cent rise in calls for support in the past 10 years and expects this to increase 300 per cent by the end of the year.

Shadow care minister Liz Kendall, MP, said: "It is appalling these cuts are being made to care services. There will be



knock-on effects to hospitals and the long-term cost as a whole will increase."

Liz South, chief executive of the disability rights charity, Radar, said Mr Adams's case was not unique among the 1.5 million disabled and elderly adults who receive social services support: "Some severely disabled people are now not getting care at all. Even in tough times dignity and quality of life should be top priorities."

Hilton Dawson, chief executive of the British Association of Social Workers, said: "Support for adult social services is being overlooked by councils."

The issue was highlighted in a landmark ruling last July when the Supreme Court ruled that former prima ballerina Elaine McDonald, 68, a stroke victim, should wear incontinence pads so that Kensington and Chelsea council would not have to pay for an overnight carer to help her use the loo.

West Sussex County Council social services was ranked 11th worst of 152 councils in England, in a recent survey by the think-tank Demos.

A council spokesman said: "Mr Adams's situation has been carefully considered. While many of his care needs are still being met, there has been a reduction in his personal budget."

"A social worker is working with Mr Adams to support him through the transition period before the changes come into place."

### 'Shocking and appalling case'

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