

### Case one

*Mr A is morbidly obese and hasn't been out of his home for over 5 years. (He could not physically get out of the house so respite was out of the question) He has a DP and employs a PA.*

*The PA was going on holiday and could not find anyone to cover. The care plan had been with the brokers for over 6 weeks trying to find cover without success. He normally manages with 2 x 1 hour daily.*

### Case Two

*Mr B has dementia, epilepsy & heart condition. He lives at home with a 3 times daily package of care to support. His wife provides high level of support alongside the agency visits and had never taken a break, she was reporting to feel exhausted.*

*Mr B's care was unsourced from October 2021, finally receiving offer from agency at the end of Feb 2023. During the period of being unsourced Mrs B did not feel comfortable taking respite as care was not settled. Once permanent care was in place, she wished to proceed with 2 week respite break. However, his care agency advised they could only keep his care package available for 7 days. We clearly did not want to lose the package after waiting so long for it to be sourced.*

### Solution

*Through case discussion with Team Manager, we wondered if we could ask for the care package for Mr B to be utilised by Mr A for the 9 days he required, leaving Mr B's care only needing to be kept open for 5 days. After some negotiation, the Agency agreed to this plan.*

*Mr A was happy with the service and things worked out well. Mr B enjoyed his respite break in a residential home and Mrs B felt rested and able to carry on in her caring role.*

*This is a great example of creative thinking and strengths-based work, which we are sharing in order for other teams to consider and think about imaginative solutions.*