

## Remap Northants Panel

Part of a national charity of 85 panels located throughout the UK, the Remap (Real Engineers Make Anything Possible) Northants Panel is a group of eight volunteers, made up of retired or working engineers with access to workshops, who make or modify bespoke equipment that has a positive impact on the lives of their clients.

The aim of Remap is to transform lives, making everyday activities a reality for the disabled, either by modifying commercially available equipment that is unsuitable, or designing and making a bespoke item.

The Northants Panel is funded by donations, including from the Lloyds TSB Foundation, Barclaycard Community Gifts and Rugby Soroptimists. They do not charge clients for the work or disclose costs to them, though some clients make a donation.

A typical job for the panel, for which it received a Barclaycard Community award, was a referral case from Adult Social Care in Kettering.

The client, who was already known to the panel as they had previously modified his wheelchair footrest, was an epileptic and had broken his artificial hip and been hospitalised for several weeks following a fall. He was unable to raise his feet so could not climb the steps to access his house and the hospital would not release him until he could access it using a wheelchair. Neither local social services or the client were able to fund the construction of the ramp, estimated at £2,200.

Design and construction of the ramp (pictured below) by the panel, took 42 hours and the total cost was under £300. The client did not have to pay anything as it was funded by the panel's operating budget.



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The client was released from hospital the day after the ramp was finished and he and his wife were delighted.

The national charity, funded by the government, charitable trusts, bequests and donations, employs a CEO and four part-time staff, who support the panels with liability insurance, publicity material, a national website and an operations manual.

For further information on Remap visit [www.remap.org.uk](http://www.remap.org.uk).

*“All the Northants engineers achieve a tremendous sense of satisfaction when the equipment is delivered to the client and the benefit can be seen with a big smile and a warm thank you”* Tony Lake, Chairman, Remap Northants Board