Every day they provide housing adaptations and repairs to make life easier for older, vulnerable and disabled residents living in Peterborough.

The outstanding work carried out by Peterborough City Council’s Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency Service has been commended at the Home Improvement Agency and Handy person Service Awards 2016.

The team was awarded the National Foundations Collaboration Award (http://www.foundations.uk.com/about-us/sector-showcase/) and was also highly commended in the Innovation Award category.

Organised by Foundations – the national body for home improvement agencies – the annual awards recognise the efforts of England’s 200 agencies to offer a wide range of home support to disabled and older vulnerable people on low incomes.

Iris, from Stanground, who had a level access shower fitted at her home by the care and repair team, said: "My husband and I are in our sixties and you won't believe what a difference this had made to our lives. Before it was such a struggle to use the bathroom and I used to dread it, but this work has taken all this stress away from us. I can't thank the team enough, they were absolutely tremendous and this award is thoroughly deserved."

Each year the care and repair team of eight helps 4,000 people through the handy person service, 1,300 people with minor aids and adaptations, and 500 through the larger jobs scheme.

The work includes larger repairs such as damp proofing and roofwork, minor adaptations such as rails and banisters, larger disabled adaptation, for example stair lifts and level access showers (wet rooms), and small extensions for wheelchair accessible bedrooms and bathrooms.

The agency is no stranger to award wins having won the Integration Champion Award in 2014 and, in March this year, the team also won a National Government Opportunities (GO) Excellence in Public Procurement award in the category Best Service Award – Health and Social Care.

Councillor Irene Walsh, cabinet member for communities and environment capital, said: "To see the agency receive national recognition once again is really fantastic. The work it does makes such a difference to so many people in Peterborough."

"From mending a cupboard door to fixing a boiler, every piece of work will help our elderly and vulnerable residents live a better, more stress free life and feel safer in their homes."

Councillor John Fox, chair of the care and repair steering group, added: "The work the team does day in day out really has to be praised. The impact they make on the lives of so many people across the city can not be underestimated and I am delighted their efforts have been recognised."

The awards were hosted by Lord Best at a ceremony held in the House of Lords attended by senior representatives from the housing and health sectors.

Lord Best said: "The quality of the entries to this year's awards underlines the valuable contribution being made by home improvement agencies up and down the country to support the most vulnerable in society."

To find out if you are eligible for any of the services delivered, visit the care and repair page or contact 01733 863895 or for the handy person scheme call 01733 863860.