

18. EQUIPMENT and ADAPTATIONS TO YOUR HOME

Organisations providing and supplying equipment and adaptations include Social Services, the NHS, voluntary organisations, district councils and private companies. It is worth getting professional advice about the most appropriate piece of equipment and the suitability of any adaptations before buying something.

Adaptations to your home may be necessary to make it more suitable for the disabled person. The Occupational Therapist or the Environmental Health Department of your local authority will explain how grants are obtained and can give details of eligibility for grants. There are some mandatory grants and some discretionary grants available, however the grants are means tested.

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to make the home of a disabled person more suitable for them to live in and to help them to manage more independently in their home. They must be registered or qualify to register as a disabled person.

The Environmental Health Department works closely with Social Services Occupational Therapists who will carry out an assessment of the disabled persons need for any adaptations.

Home Repairs Assistance Grants Scheme is available to people in certain geographical areas who are over 65 yrs, infirm or disabled, or receiving a means-tested benefit. Grants for up to £2,000 may be used for repairs, heating provision, security measures and minor adaptations, such as installing a shower or ramp.

A **Renovation Grant** may be available if your home is judged unfit to live in and needs major work.

Chichester District Council: Tel: 01243 785166
Arun District Council: Tel: 01903 737500



British Red Cross – Ability

A mail order catalogue which, offers a wide range of aids and equipment.

Tel: 0870 739 7391

British Red Cross - Bognor

To provide emergency help to people in need. Medical loan service; wheelchairs, commodes, walking aids and other aids can be supplied on a short-term basis. There is a small charge and equipment is subject to availability.

Office open Mon-Fri 10am-1pm. Contact: The Centre Organiser, 5 The Precinct, West Meads, Bognor Regis, PO21 5SB. Tel: 01243 822240

British Red Cross - Petworth

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10-12pm. Offers medical equipment loan and therapeutic care. Not able to provide transport. Contact: The Red Cross Centre, Market Square, Petworth, GU28 0AH Tel: 01798 343252

British Red Cross - Selsey

Covers East & West Wittering and Selsey. Provides a medical loan service (wheelchairs, commodes, etc). Tel: 01243 602615.

Daily Living Centre - Hove

Offers free, impartial advice and information on equipment to the disabled, the elderly, as well as carers. There is a comprehensive display of equipment, mobility aids and communication aids. Visitors can see and try out a wide range of products, and information is available on costs and where to obtain or borrow specific items. Visitors can view equipment without an appointment on Weds 10am-4pm but if they would like one-to-one specialist advice and information from the centre's Occupational Therapist they will need to phone first to make an appointment on a Mon, Tue, Thurs and Fri. Tel: 01273 296132/3 Textphone: 01273 725421 Fax: 01273 296144 (Mon–Fri 10am-4pm). Unit 1, Hove Business Centre, Fonthill Road, Hove, BN3 6HA. Tel: 01273 296132, Fax: 01273 296144, Textphone: 01243 725421

Email: guy.montague-smith@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Disability Equipment Register

Has second-hand specialist equipment which is for sale or wanted. Includes bathroom equipment, furniture, beds, hoists, stair lifts, scooters, vehicles, wheelchairs. Subscription payment to receive or advertise in the list. Contact: Disability Equipment Register, 4 Chatterton Road, Yate, Bristol, BS17 4BJ. Tel: 01454 318818

Website: www.disabilityequipment.org.uk Email: disabreg@blueyonder.co.uk

Disability Equipment Service

Lists second hand disability equipment which is for sale by individuals. Tel: 0800 0439 395. Website: www.askdes.org.uk

Disabled Living Foundation

Offers information and advice about equipment and possible suppliers. They will send out brochures and contact details. Disabled Living Foundation, 380-384 Harrow Road, London, W9 2HU Helpline: 0845 1309177 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm) Fax: 020 7266 2922 Website: www.dlf.org.uk Email: info@dlf.org.uk

Homecraft AbilityOne

Produces a catalogue of aids and equipment for daily living, including mobility, bathroom and toilet aids, household equipment, wheelchairs etc.

Tel: 08702 423305. Website: www.homecraft-rolyan.com

ICIS also have information on Equipment and Adaptation to your home. (See page Chapter 1, Advice and Information).

Occupational Therapy Service

Occupational Therapists (OT) with the Social Services provide advice on all aspects of the management of physical disability. In addition, the OT will arrange, either directly or via the Disability Equipment Services Team or following an OT assessment of your need, for the provision of any necessary equipment. The OT will also advise on appropriate adaptations to your home.

Occupational Therapists work closely with social workers and home care colleagues to ensure that the agreed package of care to meet the individual's needs is implemented.

There is also close liaison with health colleagues, GPs, and District Nurses. Telephone – The Social and Caring Services Help Desk (telephone numbers are listed in *Chapter 1, Advice and Information*).

Private Companies

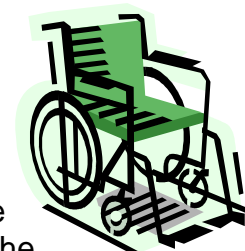
There are numerous adverts about and many private companies listed in the Yellow Pages offering Aids and Equipment for sale. Many organisations listed in this pack can give details of private companies that may be able to supply particular items of equipment.

REMAP

Makes and modifies aids and equipment for people with disabilities that cannot be obtained commercially, frequently working with Occupational Therapists. Members meet every six weeks at St Bridgets Cheshire Home, Ilex Close, Rustington, BN16 2RX . Tel: 01243 552290. Website: www.remap.org.uk

Wheelchair Service

The Chichester Wheelchair Service aims to improve short -range mobility and posture for people with long-term disability, whilst trying to reduce the risk of pressure injuries. Referral to the service is through either a State Registered Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, or the person's Doctor.



Specific wheelchairs (manual and/or powered), postural and seating equipment are prescribed following specialist assessment by the Senior Occupational Therapists, to people meeting Health Authority Eligibility Criteria. The government initiatives of the Voucher Scheme and EPIOC (Electrically Powered Indoor/Outdoor Chair) may be available depending on resources, to a specific group of appropriately assessed and eligible clients. Assessments and reviews are done mainly at the Wheelchair Service Clinic, or as appropriate within the person's own home, school, etc.

Please contact the Wheelchair Service for information or advice, Monday-Friday (8.30am-4.30pm). Tel/Fax: 01243 531268