

Adapting your home

Factsheet 79b – 30 July 2008 (2 pages)

Are you eligible for help?

When you enquire about receiving our support you will be asked about your circumstances. We will then discuss with you what options are available and agree the best course of action for you. This may be giving you information or advice, or arranging for an assessment of your needs.

Everyone's situation is unique, and we carefully consider each request for support. We use national guidelines from the Department of Health, called Fair Access to Care Services (FACS), making sure our services are provided fairly and used to support people in greatest need. For more details see our factsheet **FS1 Assessment and Fair Access to Care** or for a personal explanation telephone **Care Direct** on **0845 1551 007**. FACS does not apply to Disabled Facilities Grant for a major adaptation, your local council will use other criteria to decide if you are eligible.

What help can we give

Minor Adaptations: These include ramps, rails, and other small works that may be recommended following your assessment. If you are eligible, minor adaptations can be arranged for you **free of charge**.

Major Adaptations: these could include a stair lift, wide doorway, adapting bathrooms or kitchens. The work may be funded through a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) administered by your local District Council, on the recommendation of a Social Services Occupational Therapist (OT).

Applicants for a DFG can be home owners, private or council tenants, live in park homes and houseboats. The council will need to check that your proposed scheme is necessary, and appropriate to meet the needs identified by Social Services. It must also be reasonable and practical depending on the age of your property.

The amount of the grant you receive will be decided by a means test. It will depend on your income and capital and you may be asked to contribute towards the cost of the work. Social Services may be able to help if you cannot afford your assessed contribution and/or 'top-up' funding is necessary.

It is important that you **DO NOT START ANY WORK** before you have received grant approval from your local council - you will not normally be entitled to any help for work already undertaken.

For more details contact your local District Council and ask for an application form and/or copy of the leaflet Disabled Facilities Grant which is also available on www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/138592.pdf

Devon Care & Repair – Home Improvement Agencies

Devon Care & Repair (DCR) are funded to help you arrange a major adaptation if you need it. They can provide technical services such as drawing plans and work with Social Services and the District

Council to make sure the work progresses smoothly. They keep lists of reliable contractors who can provide a quality service, DCR will check the adaptation is satisfactory on completion of the work.

Devon Care & Repair provide handyperson services which can help you with small repairs, maintenance and minor adaptations; a charge is made for this service.

Contact Devon Care & Repair direct on:

East Devon	01395 514790	South Hams	01752 896652
Exeter	01392 822650	Teignbridge	01626 355793
Mid Devon	01884 255587	Torrige	01237 424240
North Devon	01271 326141	West Devon	01822 613638
or speak to Care Direct on 0845 1551 007			

(Note: If you are registered disabled with your local Social Services, you will be exempt from paying VAT on works done to adapt your home or equipment purchased specifically to meet your disability needs). You should be given a form to claim VAT relief when you buy your equipment or adaptation. Please see leaflet from HM Customs and Excise entitled **VAT Reliefs for disabled People** Ref: Notice 701/7 for more details. Tel. 0845 010 9000 www.hmce.gov.uk

See also: Factsheet 79a, **Equipment to help in your home**

If you have any further questions please contact **Care Direct 0845 1551 007**

Further factsheets can be found online at www.devon.gov.uk/factsheets

A large print version of this factsheet is available on www.devon.gov.uk/largeprint-factsheets but if you would like it in a different format such as Braille or tape, or in a different language, please contact our Customer Service Centre on 0845 155 1015 or email customer@devon.gov.uk.