

Housing Options for Families with Disabled Children



This leaflet has been compiled to help families consider all the options available to help them provide a home that is suitable for their family's needs.

These may be any combination of:

- Rehabilitation
- Adaptations and/or specialist equipment within your home
- Moving home
- Extending your current home

Who will decide what is needed?

Your Occupational Therapist will work with you to carry out an assessment of need for your family and then consider what needs are not currently being met in your home. This will be done in accordance with the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act (1970) and the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act (1996)

Who will help you meet the identified needs?

The Occupational Therapist will work with you in communicating this to your landlord or to the Local Housing Authority to establish the most appropriate way of addressing any needs identified.

If changes to your home are agreed you may be able to provide some changes yourself. If you need help towards costs or with the practical aspect or project management then the Local Housing Authority may be able to provide assistance and support.

What type of measures might be needed?

It may be something quite simple like a ramp to help you access the property, or some specialist equipment. However it may be something more complex, which involves building works within the home. Any need will always try to be accommodated within the footprint of the property first. If this cannot be achieved then help may be available to help you move to a more suitable property, or a larger adaptation may be considered. If your child has challenging and complex behaviour which affects your housing needs, you may be asked to do some work on the behaviour (with the support of appropriate services) before full recommendations can be made.

What help is available if moving is the most appropriate option?

Both practical and financial help may be available to help you move to a more suitable property. Your landlord or the Local Housing Authority / Home Improvement Agency will support you through this.

What if a move is not the best solution?

In some circumstances it may be possible to build an extension to meet the needs identified by your Occupational Therapist. However this will only be considered for funding if no other solution can be found.

What about funding?

If you are a tenant of the Council or a registered Social Landlord you may be able to get funding from your landlord. Alternatively, you may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) from the District Council. Although this grant is not means tested for disabled children there is a maximum limit, and if the cost rises above this limit you may be asked to pay the remaining amount. It may however, be possible to secure funding from other sources such as Charities, your local Council, your landlord or the County Council. Your local Home Improvement Agency (HIA) can advise you about this and if necessary help you with the process. There may also be funding available if you decide to move from your current home to one that is more suited to adaptation.

So briefly, what's the process?

The Occupational Therapist is the first point of contact so that an assessment can be done. A referral will then be sent on your behalf highlighting the identified needs.

The Local Authorities and the Home Improvement Agency will then work with you and the Occupational Therapist to find the most appropriate solution, including design, funding and support.

Some useful contacts for Cambridgeshire

Occupational Therapy

Tel: 01223 218065

Cambridge City Council Tenants

Tel: 01223 457833

Cambs Home Improvement Agency (covering Huntingdonshire, South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City)

Tel: 01954 713347 or 713330

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Tel: 01353 665555

East Cambs Care & Repair

Tel: 01353 616950

Fenland District Council

Tel: 01354 654321

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Care & Repair

Tel: 01553 616677

Huntingdonshire District Council

Tel: 01480 388238

South Cambridgeshire District Council Tenants

Tel: 0345 0450051

My Useful Contacts:

My Local Housing Agency contact number is:

My child's housing agency caseworker name is:

My child's Occupational Therapist is:

My child's Occupational Therapist phone number is:

NOTES

For further information about this service contact:

Children Occupational Therapy / Physiotherapy Administration
The Peacock Centre
Brookfields Campus
351 Mill Road
Cambridge
CB1 3DF

Tel: 01223 218065

A website for information relating to Disability and Housing: www.direct.gov.uk

If you require this information in a different format such as in large print or on audio tape, or in a different language please contact the service on the details above.

If you have any compliments about this service or suggestions for improvements, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 0300 131 1000 (charges may apply depending on your network) or email: ccs-tr.pals@nhs.net.

For free, confidential health advice and information 24 hours a day, 365 days a year please contact NHS 111.