



## **Home Improvement Agency**

### **FACTSHEET**

## **Adaptations for People with Disabilities**

The Council provides a wide range of assistance to help people of all ages with disabilities to live as independently as possible in their homes.

There are various types of assistance which may be available:

- Specialist equipment
- Minor adaptations costing less than £1000
- Major adaptations costing more than £1000 (including Disabled Facilities Grants)
- Rehousing (in the case of a Council Tenant)

### **Who Can Apply**

You can apply for assistance with adaptations if you are:-

- The disabled person
- The parent or guardian of a disabled child under the age of 19
- The owner of a property where a disabled person is resident on a permanent basis

Every disabled person who enquires about assistance will be assessed in exactly the same way, regardless of their age or who owns your property.

The assistance we offer can depend on tenure (whether living in their own home, renting from a private landlord or housing association), personal circumstances or financial situation. Customers will be advised of this during the assessment process.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To receive specialist equipment and adaptations (major or minor) to a home, all three of the following criteria must be met:

- You must reside permanently in Sandwell and

- You must have a permanent and substantial physical disability OR the equipment must be needed as part of a rehabilitation treatment package, and
- You must be experiencing difficulty using the existing main facilities of your home because of your disability.

### **The difficulty could include:**

- Not being able to get into or out of a bed without help, either on the ground floor or upstairs
- Not being able to leave or enter the home because the access is restricted
- Not being able to use stairs
- Not being able to use your bath or shower without assistance
- Being advised, by a doctor, not to undertake any of the activities listed above without being accompanied
- Having restricted mobility

### **Assessment**

A Prevention Assessor and an Occupational Therapist from the Therapy Team will contact you to get more detailed information about your needs in order to decide the most appropriate form of assessment to complete and to prioritise the request.

This could be completed over the telephone, by visiting your home or an assessment may be completed at our facilities at the Independent Living Centre.

The Council may also contact any professionals who work with you, eg your GP. Where the disabled person is a child, we may contact their GP, their school as well as any specialists who work with them.

### **How to Apply**

When you find that you need assistance in your home, you should contact the Housing Hub on 0121 368 1166

They will take some details and ask for some information about your needs which will be passed to the Therapy Team to assess you.

