

Appendix 1 – The Adaptations, Housing and Health Services.

1 Introduction

The Adaptations Housing and Health services are 3 separate services which were brought together through an MER in 2009: the Equipment and Adaptations team, the Disabled Facilities Grants team, and the Health and Housing service.

Their common purpose is to enable people to live as independently as possible in their own homes and to identify and deliver what support is needed to ensure people can continue to do so, either by providing equipment or adaptations, or by enabling people to move to a home more suited to their situation.

2 The Equipment and Adaptations Team

The Equipment and Adaptations Team consists of Occupational Therapists (OT) and Occupational Therapy Assistants who visit people and complete functional Occupational Therapy assessment to identify and recommend support people need with the tasks of daily living. The team support people of all ages including children

This includes providing information and advice, support and equipment like grab and stair rails, bath boards, stairlifts, hoists or ramps enable people to remain independent safe and well in their own homes.

OTs also recommend more major adaptations like level access showers or changing the layout of someone's home to make it easier to maintain independence for as long as possible and reduce the need for more formal care, or carer support.

Equipment and Adaptations are tenure neutral; we help people if they own their own homes, are staying with someone or rent from the council or a registered provider (housing association).

3 The Disabled Facilities Grants Team

The Disabled Facilities Grants Team administers and delivers the Disabled Facilities Grant.

The Disabled Facilities Grant is provided from central government which is ringfenced to fund equipment and adaptations identified by Occupational Therapists for people and children living in their own occupied, private rented or registered provider homes.

The Disabled Facilities Grant delivery is governed by legislation in the Private Sector Housing policy, the Housing Grants, Construction, and regeneration act 1996. Disabled Facilities Grants Delivery: Guidance for local authorities in England (2022) and the private sector housing policy.

The Council Housing Asset Management Service deliver adaptations to council tenants as adaptations to council tenants is not in scope of the Disabled Facilities Grant.

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4 The Health and Housing Team

The Health and Housing Team consists of 5 assessment officers who assess award and manage medical priorities for rehousing in accordance with Sheffield City Council Allocations policy.

The Health and Housing Team receive over 2000 applications a year and support rehousing for up to 400 people a year including a significant number of people where Equipment and Adaptations cannot adapt the property as it's not possible, or feasible, or its not reasonable or practical to adapt.

Health and Housing is tenure neutral; we help people if they own their own homes, are staying with someone or rent from the council or a registered provider (housing association) and with people of all ages including children.

The Team works in partnership with Sheffield Teaching Hospital and Sheffield City Council Social Work teams, Home First and Housing to ensure people are discharged as quickly as possible from hospital to new homes, when their current home is no longer suitable for their emerging health issues.