

General information

- You will be responsible for the works that are carried out on your home. Your local council will advise and assist you with this.
- Any equipment that is installed, for example a stairlift, will come with a 1 year warranty. You will be responsible for servicing and maintenance of the equipment after this time.
- If you need to use an architect or surveyor for drawings, you can choose whoever you want for this but you must take responsibility for the costs of the plans.
- Reasonable fees can be included as part of the total cost of the works BUT will only be paid if a grant is approved, and the works proceed. You are advised to discuss this with your local council before appointing an architect or surveyor.
- If you need help with completing application forms you may use an agent to help you. Reasonable costs for this can be included in the grant costs. You will need to discuss this with your local council before appointing an agent.

Useful phone numbers and websites



Devon County Council Care Direct

Adults 0345 1551 007
Intergrated Children's Service
0330 024 5321



East Devon Council

01395 571572
www.eastdevon.gov.uk



Exeter City Council

01392 277888
www.exeter.gov.uk



Mid Devon District Council

01844 255255
www.middevon.gov.uk



North Devon District Council

01271 327711
www.northdevon.gov.uk



South Hams
District Council

South Hams District Council

01803 861234
www.southhams.gov.uk



Teignbridge
DISTRICT COUNCIL
SOUTH DEVON

Teignbridge District Council

01626 215202
www.teignbridge.gov.uk



Torrington District Council

01237 428700
www.torrington.gov.uk



West Devon Borough Council

01822 813600

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) for adapting your home

A guide for residents of Devon



What is a DFG?

Disabled facilities grants (DFG) are provided by your local council to help disabled people to live more independently in their own homes, where minor adaptations and equipment are not sufficient.

The range of home adaptations can include:

- Converting bathrooms into shower rooms
- Adapting toilet facilities
- Installing stairlifts
- Building ramps and widening doors
- Adapting kitchens for wheelchair users



How much could I get?

The amount of grant will depend on your income, savings and investments and is decided through a national test of financial resources. This information will be used to determine how much you are required to pay towards the cost of the adaptations. If you are in receipt of certain benefits you may not have to make any contribution.

Disabled Facilities Grants for a disabled child are not subject to this test of financial resources.

The maximum grant is up to £30,000.

Where the costs of the work exceeds this or you have a contribution that you feel you cannot afford then you may be able to get further help from Devon County Council. Any assistance from Devon County Council will be subject to a further test of financial resources, including the parents of disabled children.

Who can apply?

- **Disabled people** who own their own home, rent privately or live in social housing (some council tenants may be managed through a separate process).
- people who have a **disabled adult or child** living with them.

How do I apply?

Contact **Care Direct** on **0345 1551 007** or the **Intergrated Children's Service** on **0330 024 5321** in the first instance, they will take some information from you and refer you to an Occupational Therapist (OT) who will contact you and arrange a full clinical assessment.

Devon fast track service

The local authorities in Devon are trialling a fast track service for applicants who are in receipt of certain benefits and require straight forward adaptations, for example stairlifts and bathroom adaptations

What happens next

The OT will talk to you and your family or carer (if appropriate), about any difficulties you might have around your home, for example, being able to use essential facilities such as the WC, keeping yourself clean, getting to your bedroom.

They will first look at alternatives such as the provision of equipment or maybe discuss with you how you might do things differently. It may be that alternative accommodation should be considered. If those solutions will not meet your needs they will discuss what adaptation(s) might help you overcome your difficulties.

If the OT decides that an adaptation is the best solution for you they will agree appropriate recommendations with you which they will send to you and ask you to sign and return it to your local council. Your local council will contact you and will advise you how to progress your application.

Are there any strings attached?

- You must NOT start any works until you have received formal approval from your local Council.
- It must be your intention to remain living in your home for the next 5 years
- In certain circumstances, the grants may have to be paid back if the property is sold within 10 years of the works being completed.
- You may need building regulation approval and/or planning permission for some adaptations.

