

Blackpool Care & Repair: Adaptations and Equipment for Disabled people

Who are Care & Repair?

Care & Repair is the Council's Home Improvement Agency. We provide a wide range of services to older and disabled residents in Blackpool which aim to help you live independently in your home in comfort, warmth and security.

Who can get help with adaptations?

- ◆ Anyone living in their own home, privately rented or Housing Association property can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant
- ◆ Blackpool Coastal Housing fund adaptations for their own tenants.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Disabled Facilities Grants are available to fund home adaptations that enable disabled people and people with mobility problems to continue to live independently in their home.

What types of works are eligible?

Adaptations to your home could include:

- ◆ Access ramps and steplifts
- ◆ Bathroom adaptations to improve access to bathing and sanitary facilities
- ◆ Stairlifts and through floor lifts
- ◆ Kitchen modifications

How do I apply for an Adaptation or Equipment?

You should contact [Social Services Direct](#) and speak to the Duty Officer to give them your details. They will arrange for an Occupational Therapist to visit you in your home to assess your needs. Alternatively you can ask your Doctor, or any other Health professional to refer you onto the Community Occupational Therapist or ring Care & Repair.

The Occupational Therapist will then visit to assess you and may order equipment to help with your daily living needs. The Occupational Therapist may also send a recommendation to Care & Repair for an adaptation.

Some minor adaptations and equipment may be provided by Social Services free of charge and can include the provision of handrails and grab rails in and around your home and various kitchen and bathroom aids. The Occupational Therapist will discuss your needs with you at the time of the visit.

How is my eligibility for a Disabled Facilities Grant calculated?

The amount of grant you receive will depend on your financial and personal circumstances. The grant is 'means tested' to ensure that those in most need get the most help. The amount of grant you will receive depends on a "Test of Resources" which looks at your income and savings to decide how much, if anything, you have to pay towards the cost of the work. This financial assessment uses figures set down by the Government.

The maximum grant is £30,000. If the cost of the work is in excess of £30,000 the client will be asked to contribute the excess.

How soon could I expect to get a grant?

The Council has a limited budget each year for disabled adaptations. Once Care & Repair has received the Occupational Therapist's assessment the current waiting time is approximately six to nine months depending on the complexity of the work.

What happens next?

A Caseworker will visit you and help complete the necessary forms and explain the grant process. A Technical Officer will then visit to assess the suitability of the property, if necessary draw any plans and prepare a schedule of works. **Please note; do not start any work before your grant has been approved. We cannot award grants for work that has already been started or completed.**

The Occupational Therapist will arrange a follow up visit to confirm the adaptation meets your requirements.

Does the Council have to give me a Disabled Facilities Grant?

When you apply to the council for a disabled facilities grant, we will need to check that the proposed works are **Reasonable** and **Practicable, Necessary** and **Appropriate** to meet the disabled person's needs. This will be subject to an assessment of your needs made by an Occupational Therapist.

The Council can refuse a Disabled Facilities Grant if the scheme does not meet these requirements.

Care & Repair's other services

- ◆ Grants and loans to help remedy disrepair
- ◆ Handyperson
- ◆ Security
- ◆ Home Safety Inspection
- ◆ Falls Prevention
- ◆ Small repairs
- ◆ Energy Efficiency
- ◆ Gardening

Standards and Service

Blackpool Care & Repair is endorsed by Communities and Local Government. We were awarded a Quality Mark in 2005 for high

levels of service and good practice and have received several other awards for innovation and achievement. Our most recent award was in January 2008.

How to contact us:

Care & Repair
The Stadium
Seasider's Way
Blackpool FY1 6JY

Tel: 01253 651555
Fax: 01253 651494
E-mail: care&repair@blackpool.gov.uk

If you want to find out more about Adult Services in Blackpool contact Social Services Direct. They will be able to answer many routine enquiries immediately. They are open from 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9.00am to 4.30pm on Friday.

Tel: (01253) 477592
Fax: (01253) 477827
Email: social.servicesdirect@blackpool.gov.uk

In an emergency out of office hours, telephone (01253) 477600.

To ensure our services are accessible to all, documents prepared by Blackpool Council are available in large print, Braille, on audio-cassette or on computer disc upon request.

We can also provide help for British Sign Language users and provide information in other languages. Please ask for details or telephone 477117.