

I want to know more about...

. . . the adaptations proposed for my home

The Occupational Therapist has recommended that adaptations to your home would make it easier for you and/or your carer to manage everyday tasks in and around the home. We hope this information will help you understand and make decisions about the next part of the process in applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant

What type of adaptations will I be offered as part of a Disabled Facilities Grant?

The government legislation which allows councils to award Disabled Facilities Grants says that the Housing Departments must check with the Occupational Therapy department to confirm that adaptations are 'appropriate and necessary'. This is what your Occupational Therapist has already done.

The Home Improvement Officer will, in consultation, with the Occupational Therapist decide what scheme of adaptations can be considered. The legislation says that the scheme of works must be 'reasonable and practicable'. This means that the Home Improvement Officer can **only** offer the most cost-effective option to meet the needs even if there are several ways of doing this.

The legislation only allows the council to meet the needs of the disabled person. Although we can take into account the impact any alterations may have on the rest of the family, we cannot consider other needs such as accommodation needs where there is not enough space.

What can I do if I want to see what the adaptations will look like?

Adaptations usually make a big change to a person's home and it can be quite an upheaval to have the work done. If you want to see what the adaptations will look like you can visit the Bradford Equipment demonstration centre in Shipley. You will be able to see a wide range of things there, including level access showers, lifts, hoists and a closomat toilet. It is also possible for you to try the lifts if you have any worries about how you will manage to use one.

There may also be someone who lives nearby who has had adaptations done and who would be willing to let you visit them to see the work and talk about going through the Disabled Facilities Grant process.

The Occupational Therapist will help you find out more about the adaptations being proposed.

What can I do if my house cannot be adapted to meet my needs?

Sometimes it is not possible to adapt properties to make them suitable for a person's disability needs. It is not possible for a Disabled Facilities Grant to be used for adaptations which do not meet **all** a person's needs. For example it may be possible to adapt inside the property, but there may be too many steps to make it feasible to adapt the access. In this instance you would not get a grant.

The Occupational Therapist will discuss options with you if it is decided that your property cannot be adapted. We will be able to help you make enquiries to the Disabled Persons Housing Service and local Housing Associations. If you want to buy a property we will look at it first before you decide to go ahead to see if it can be adapted.

(We cannot guarantee planning consents or any future Disabled Facilities Grant assistance.)



What can I do if I don't want the scheme being offered and want to do something different?

It may be possible to use the grant to put towards a more expensive option. You need to discuss this with the Home Improvement Officer and the Occupational Therapist. This is called off-setting costs. You will be awarded the amount which the scheme offered would have cost (less any means tested contribution from you).

Your scheme must show that your disability needs will be met. For example if you have been offered a stairlift (to get you to a bedroom) and a shower (to enable you to wash), and you are considering building an extension, the plans must show a bedroom and a toilet and shower.

There must also be enough living space for the rest of the family, and there must be natural light and ventilation to the rooms used.

We cannot reimburse you anything for any costs you might incur looking into doing your preferred scheme e.g. plans, and we cannot support a planning application to the planning department where there is an internal scheme of adaptations which would meet the needs.

Please note that if you choose to off-set costs you cannot use the Home Improvement Agency to organise the work. Payment of any grant can only be made when the work is fully completed.

**You will only get the grant if you carry out the scheme which has been approved.
If you change the plans without approval you will not get any financial assistance towards the cost of the works!**



For more detailed information please contact either of the teams below;

**Private Sector Housing,
Adaptations Team,**

**Telephone:
01274 434520**

**Occupational Therapy
Service,
Housing Options Team**

**Telephone:
01274 433723**

**Both located at:
Jacobs Well,
Bradford,
BD1 5RW.**

**Disability Equipment Bradford
103 Dockfield Road
Shipley
West Yorkshire
BD17 7AR**

Tel: 01274 530432

**Email: equipment@disabilityadvice.org.uk
www.disabilityadvice.org.uk/equipment
Please telephone first for an appointment.**

**Department of Regeneration,
Housing Service,
1st Floor South Wing,
Jacobs Well,
Bradford,
BD1 5RW.**

www.bradford.gov.uk/housing

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