



Aids and adaptations

Our aim is to provide suitable accommodation for you and your family. We understand that sometimes those needs may change. If you become disabled you may need to move to a more suitable home and we will endeavour to assist you if this is the case. However it may be possible to adapt your existing home so it is better suited to your needs.

This leaflet gives information about your options and our services.

What are aids and adaptations?

Aids and adaptations vary from the installation of grab rails or ramps to the conversion of a bath to a level access shower.

You may request permission to carry out works yourself. If you cannot carry out works yourself we will provide you with advice, support and may carry out minor works ourselves so that you and your family can continue to live in your home safely.

Can Colne carry out the work?

We have a budget for carrying out minor works like installing grab rails, ramps or other improvements to your home. We usually require the recommendation of an occupational therapist, doctor or social worker. If the work required is substantial (costing over £1,000) we will offer you advice about claiming a Disabled Facilities Grant (see page three for more information).

We also have a programme to renew all bathing facilities in our sheltered properties with level access showers over the next few years. This is because most have baths or big steps into the showers.

If you are interested in finding out more about this programme, speak to your Scheme Officer or call our Supported Housing Team on **01206 244700**.

How do I apply for help?

Get in touch with our Supported Housing Team. We need some information about your needs and contact details of your social worker or occupational therapist if you have one.

We will respond to your initial enquiry within ten days. We aim to carry out minor works within eight weeks and to help you get major work carried out within one year.

Once works are complete we will ask you how satisfied you were with the way we handled your request and the quality of the work. This helps us improve our services in future and put right anything for you.

What is a Disabled Facilities Grant?

This is a council grant to help towards the cost of adapting your home to enable you to continue to live there. A grant is paid when the council considers that changes are necessary to meet your needs, and that the work is reasonable and practical.

You can claim if you or someone living in your property is disabled and you intend to occupy the property as your/ their only or main residence throughout the grant period - currently five years.

A grant can be for adaptations such as:

- widening doors and installing ramps
- providing or improving access to rooms and facilities i.e. by installing a stair lift
- improving or providing a heating system which is suitable for your needs
- improving access to and movement around the home to enable you to care for another person who lives in the property, such as a child.

The amount paid is usually based on a financial assessment - a 'means test' - of your average weekly income in relation to your outgoings. There is no means testing for families of disabled children under 19.

Depending on the outcome of this assessment the amount of financial assistance offered can vary from 0 to 100 per cent of the cost.

**Contact
Adult Social Care on
0845 6037
630
for information.**





We will make every effort to provide information in alternative formats on request, including audio, large print and translations.

Colne

Digby House, Riverside Office Centre,
Causton Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 1RJ

Tel: **01206 244700**

Fax: **01206 760403**

Text: **07539 114114**

E-mail: **info@colnehousing.co.uk**

Website: **www.colnehousing.co.uk**

Registered with the Homes and Communities Agency (LH1651) and under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 (20799R) with exempt charitable status.

Reviewed July 2015

CHS11