

All Things Home

Parent Carer Guide
to Home Adaptions & Aids



For families of children with additional needs, "home" takes on an even deeper significance. It's not just a physical space, but a sanctuary where their child's unique needs can be met with comfort and understanding. It's where routines are established, tailored to sensory sensitivities or medical requirements, and where a sense of safety and belonging is fostered.

The Community Therapy Service helps people live a more enjoyable and independent life.

There are a number of teams who work with adults and children who have disabilities and help them to find ways of living independently by learning new skills, adapting their home, or finding specialist equipment to keep people safe, well and fulfilled.

The Occupational Therapist will either send a self assessment form or make an appointment to visit you and undertake an assessment by:

- Asking you some questions about your child's illness or disability and how this affects them
- Asking you to show them how you carry out the tasks that are causing you or your child problems
- Talking to others involved in your care where they can help inform the assessment.

Myth:

Your child **MUST** have a physical disability to access this service

Truth:

The service supports families with varying disabilities, without a physical disability.



Once the assessment process is complete, the Occupational Therapist will make some suggestions on how best to support your child with the tasks that are important to you and them, and then work with you to agree a way forward together.

They will put you in touch with other people who might be able to help you and may suggest:

- Specialist equipment to help you do things you cannot do independently
- Applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant in order to adapt the environment within your home and working with the Home Improvement Agency to have the funding and works carried out

Adaptions

If you feel adaptions are required to your property to make your home more accessible, there is ways to get help and support. To access this support you can refer yourself via the Sunderland Council website and via telephone 0191 5255000.

Once you have made your referral to the community therapy service, someone will contact you to arrange an appointment with an occupational therapist to begin discussing options.

Disabled facilities Grant (DFG) for Children

The DFG is a grant helps pay for home changes that make life easier for your disabled child. This could be changes to spaces or hoists, lifts etc. You can find more information here:



Assistive Technology

Sometimes some of the requirements you may need are around safety and independence, maybe not as big as large adaptations, sometimes there may be just something less extreme needed, such as technology.

The assistive technology team are there to assess your family circumstances and see where tech maybe able to support you as a family.

For example, the support of the assistive technology team could help your children become more independent, using Alexa's, plus gadgets, to turn lights on/off, turn on tvs, open/close blinds, add sensors to know when windows maybe opened, or add Ring doorbells to ensure safety.



Find more
information here:



Fire Assessment

A fire risk assessment for a household with children who have disabilities should consider how to safely evacuate everyone in the event of a fire. The assessment should also identify any special needs that may require additional support.

Find more
information here:



Priority Services Register

Joining your energy providers Priority Services Register means you'll be able to get a range of extra help when you need it. This could be all the time, or for a short period due to something that's happened in your life.

Some of the help you can get includes:

- priority support in an emergency
- wherever possible, advanced notice of scheduled power cuts
- an identification and password scheme if someone needs to visit or contact you, helping you feel confident they are genuine
- the ability to nominate someone to receive communications and bills from your supplier, for example a family member, carer or someone you trust
- the chance to move your prepayment meter if you can't safely get to it to top up
- regular meter reading services
- account info and bills in large print or braille
- assistance reconnecting your gas supply



Find more
information here:



Waste Disposal

We can provide an additional bin for the use of non-infectious medical waste such as incontinence pads and bandages. This bin should also not be used for general household waste and will be collected on the same day as your green household waste bin.

Find more
information here:



Housing relocation via Gentoo or Sunderland City Council

For those who may be in a Gentoo property who feel their home is too small for their family, made more challenging by a child's disability would need to be a Band 2 applicant. To qualify for Band 2 based on medical reasons an applicant or member of their family will have a chronic/degenerative illness or impairment (which may be physical, mental, learning or sensory) which could be eased or improved by rehousing.

[More information on Gentoo
Housing:](#)



Sunderland City Council

To qualify for Band 1 based on medical needs or disability grounds an applicant (or member of their household) will have a chronic/degenerative illness or impairment (which may be physical, mental, learning or sensory) which has resulted in them being no longer able to cope in their present home. In making an assessment about whether an applicant qualifies, an Occupational Therapist may consider the impact the applicant's home has on their ability to access essential facilities and whether the existing home can be adapted to meet their needs.

A written recommendation will be required from a health professional(s) to confirm that an urgent move is necessary to resolve the current difficulties and that the current home cannot be adapted to meet the medical needs. The information should be provided by a clinical Consultant or an Occupational Therapist but other evidence from health professionals may be also considered.



[More information on City Council
Housing:](#)



Housing Help and more

Here is some more links and support on adaptations, appliances, and more!

Family Fund

Can provide grants for sensory toys, short breaks, and appliances such as white goods if needed!



Independence at home

can provide financial help towards the cost of specialist equipment or home adaptations



The Chronicle Sunshine Fund

is a local northeast charity that provides specialist and adapted equipment to children aged 0-19 living with disabilities, additional needs, chronic and terminal illness.



Disability Grants

website can help you find grants for different products and needs.



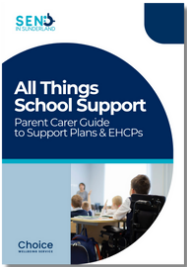
Myth:

You **MUST** own your home to have adaptations made to it.

Truth:

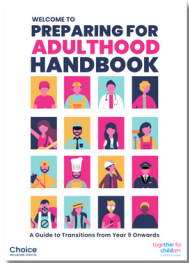
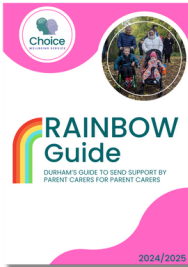
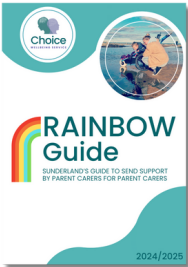
The home can be adapted with permission from your tenancy provider/landlord, this includes rented properties.

Here are just a few more guides we have available!



Guides on specific subjects

Rainbow Guides



Transitions Guides

Your Child,
Your Choice

Because one size doesn't fit all

Find our
website here:

