

## Disabled Facilities Grants for Children *Information for parents*

If your child has a disability which stops them from safely moving around and/or using the basic fixtures and fittings in your home, housing adaptations may help you.

**Adaptations** are changes made to a property that can help a child or young person with disabilities to live in their own home. Examples of adaptations include:

- Installing a stair lift for someone who cannot safely climb the stairs;
- Widening doorways and/or providing ramps to make it easier for a wheelchair user to move around their home;
- Providing a safer environment for the disabled person and others living in the home;
- Adapting or providing suitable washing, bathing and toilet facilities;
- Ground floor extension.

Housing adaptations such as these can be expensive. If your child has a disability, you may be awarded a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) to help pay for suitable adaptations to your home.

DFGs are paid by local councils to people with disabilities who need to make changes to their home in order to go on living there as safely and as independently as possible. Hartlepool Borough Council can only grant a DFG if:

- The adaptations are deemed to be 'necessary and appropriate' to meet the needs of the disabled child, and;
- The disabled child meets certain criteria.

A DFG application for children under the age of 18 are not means tested, meaning that the income and saving of parents will not be taken into account regarding how much grant money will be rewarded.

### » **Applying for a DFG**

If you think that your child may benefit from adaptations to your home, you should firstly speak to Children's Social Care for an Occupational Therapy Assessment.

**Occupational Therapy assessments are free of charge.**

If you and your OT agree that your child needs adaptations costing more than £1,000 to your home, we (Children's Social Care) will apply for a DG on your behalf. We will send your application to the Special Needs Housing team in the Regeneration and Neighbourhood department. If your child is eligible for a DFG the Special Needs Housing team will work with you and your OT until adaptations are completed.

### » **Divorced or Separated Parents**

If parents are divorced or separated, adaptations will usually only be completed at the property of the principle residence—this is normally the residence in receipt of child benefits for this child.

Hartlepool Borough Council acknowledge that every child has a need and right to a relationship with both parents, this may be taken into account and additional equipment may be supplied to the second parent if they actively help to support the principal parents with care etc.

### » **Contact us**

To get an Occupational Therapy Assessment you will need to contact the Social Care Team first of all. (contact details on page 3)

## » Contact us

You can contact the Children's Hub by letter, telephone or email. If English is not your first language, we can provide a translation service.

## » Our opening times

We open at 8:30am every weekday. We close at 5:00pm Monday to Thursday. On Fridays we close at 4:30pm.



**Telephone:** 01429 284284



**Textphone:** 60006 (start your text with HBC)



**Email:** [childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gcsx.gov.uk)



**Post:** Children's and Joint Commissioning Services  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Road  
Hartlepool  
TS24 8AY

## » About this factsheet

This factsheet gives an overview of Disabled Facilities Grant Applications on behalf of children. It was published in October 2017. We will check that the information is up to date in October 2019.



You can download all of our factsheets and booklets from our website  
[www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrenfactsheets](http://www.hartlepool.gov.uk/childrenfactsheets)