

Hexagon

Aids & Adaptations Policy

POLICY DOCUMENT

Aids & Adaptations Policy

Policy Statement

The Association is committed to assisting residents with disabilities to maintain independence within the home where possible, through the provision of aids and adaptations. In accordance with Hexagon's Corporate Plan Objectives, this policy seeks to ensure equality of opportunity for people with disabilities, who live in the Association's properties.

We will provide guidance and information to tenants, staff and other professionals to procure adaptations through the association or via other agencies.

We are committed to working with the South East London Housing Partnership (SELHAG) to establish a protocol for all Boroughs and RSLs operating within the area. The final version of this work will be used to review this policy to ensure we remain at the forefront of good practice. The initial sub-regional findings indicate that our service provision is amongst the highest of our peers.

Written contact is made with elderly and vulnerable residents through 3 yearly mail outs that are sent out to the over 65 residents enquiring on what minor adaptations works may be needed in their homes to maintain their independence such as lever taps, handrails and support rails, half steps. The responses are then collated and a 3 year improvement programmes formulated to carry out the works where feasible.

Criteria for funding Aids and Adaptations

The Disability Discrimination Act (1995) defines a long-term disability as "an impairment, which has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least 12 months or the rest of the person's life". Therefore, to ensure appropriate use of funds, the Association will not normally undertake extensive alterations to a property or install major items of fixed equipment if the circumstances giving rise to the need for an adaptation are only temporary. Each case is to be considered in line with this criterion.

Cost levels for Adaptations

Minor adaptations are those under £500 examples of which would be concrete ramps, handrails, door release intercoms, flashing light doorbells. Major adaptations are adaptations costing over £500 i.e. stair lift, ceiling hoist and bathroom alterations. All major adaptations require an Occupational Therapist's recommendation and specification or details of equipment required. If there is an unacceptable delay in obtaining recommendations it may be appropriate to consider using a registered private Occupational Therapist. The approval of the Stock Improvement Manager will be required to use a private Occupational Therapist.

We will fund all adaptation works up to £1,000 each, subject to the suitability and availability of funds.

All major adaptations are to be approved by the Stock Improvement Manager. The possibility of obtaining funds from other sources i.e. Disabled Facilities Grants, Charities, Health trusts or match funding with the relevant Local Authority should be considered before committing the Association to paying the full cost of the works.

The Association will provide major adaptations up to the value of £5,000 for each individual recommendation within the budgetary constraints. Subsequent referrals for the same resident will be considered on their merit. Funding for adaptations in excess of £5,000 will not normally be considered. However, funds from other sources i.e. Disabled Facilities Grants, Charities, Health trusts or match funding with the relevant Local Authority should be considered.

Prepared by: Stock Improvement Manager

Approved by: Property Services Director

Approved date: September 2019

Date of last review: September 2018

Document Owner: Stock Improvement Manager

Date of Next Review: September 2022

Hexagon