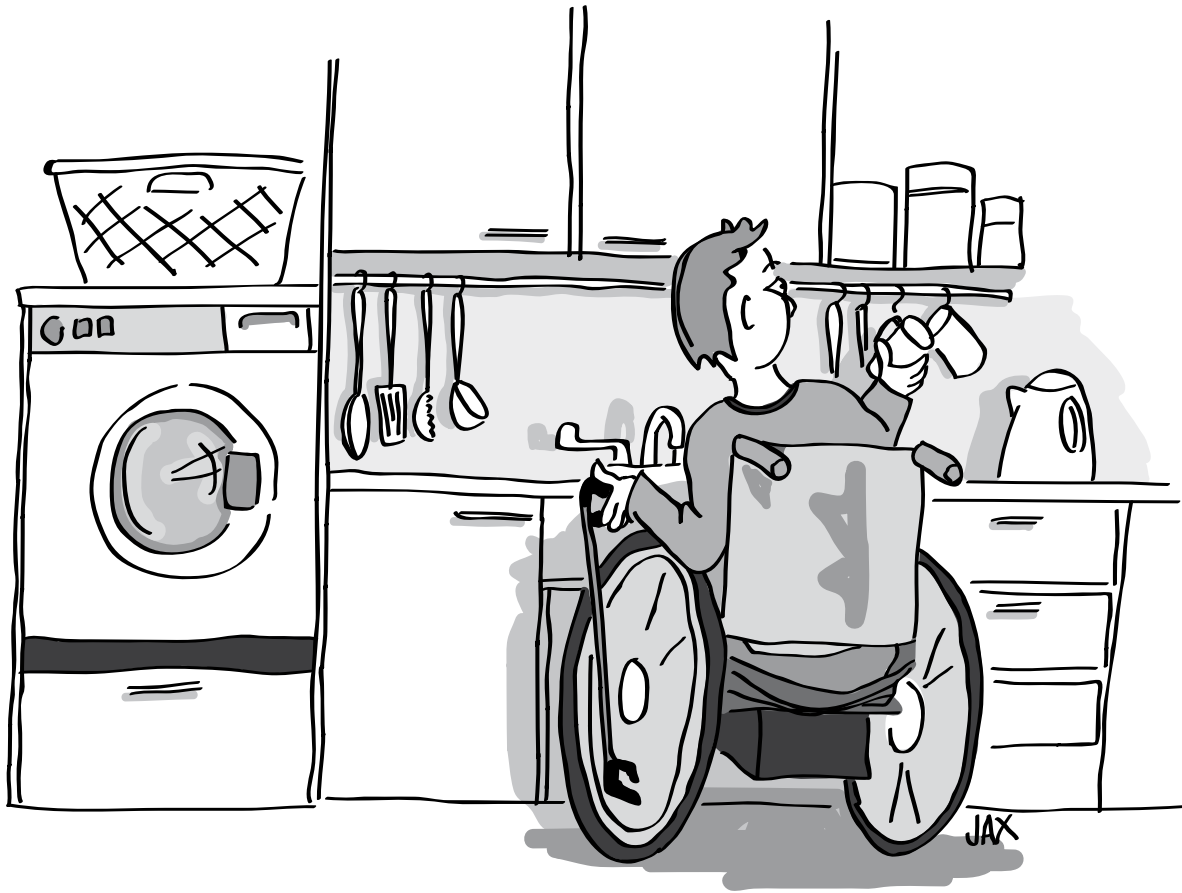


# Equipment & Adaptations



- 1 Assessment**
- 2 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**
- 3 Hearing aids**
- 4 Mobility aids**
- 5 Vision aids**
- 6 Other equipment from the NHS**
- 7 Equipment from the Local Authority**
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## 1 Assessment



**Equipment such as kitchen gadgets and grab rails can be provided to help a young person be as independent as possible and to assist their carers.**

When a social worker or care manager makes an assessment they will identify particular needs that can be met using equipment or adaptations. A referral will then be made to the occupational therapist who will carry out their own assessment during a visit to the young person's home. The assessment establishes the items that the young person may need to make day to day living easier.

## 2 Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)



**A DFG can help towards the cost of adapting your home. For example it can be used for widening doors, installing ramps or to improve access to a kitchen or bathroom. It could also be used to adapt heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use, or to provide a specially adapted room where it would be safe to leave a disabled person unattended.**

Contact the housing or environmental health department of your local council and ask them to send you an application form before you start any work. You won't normally get any grant if you start the work before the council approves the application. For more information, see the Directgov website at [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

The DFG is not means tested.

## 3 Hearing aids



**The National Health Service (NHS) provides hearing aids on loan, for free, and also maintains them free of charge.** Children are automatically changed over to adult clinics at an appropriate time, but this varies between clinics. Some children are seen at London hospitals, some are seen locally.

Other equipment such as radio aids may be obtainable from Surrey's Physical and Sensory Support team (PSS). Young people can have these at college as well as at school. If young people go to college, their statement lapses and so the college has to provide any equipment they need, and so the PSS team charge the college for the loan of the equipment.

The Deaf Services Team at Fairmount House in Leatherhead can provide aids for hearing and other equipment for deaf people, for example a flashing telephone or doorbell, as well as information and advice (see Useful Contacts).

## 4 Mobility aids



**Aids needed for long term use may be obtained from your local authority, via assessment by an occupational therapist.** They will also be able to advise you about voluntary organisations and private companies which may be able to help, as well as about companies which manufacture mobility equipment.

## 5 Vision aids



**A wide range of equipment is available to enable blind and visually impaired people to live independently at home.**

Go to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) to find out more about everyday equipment to make your son's or daughter's life easier, or about equipment and services for use at home, as well as a list of organisations which work with people with a visual impairment.

Surrey Association for the Visually Impaired (SAVI) has a large range of equipment for visually impaired people in their resource centre at Rentwood. This includes low vision aids such as magnifiers and CCTVs, kitchen gadgets and sticks and canes. They stock talking clocks and watches, talking scales and even a talking microwave.

Members of the Rehabilitation Team can give training in how to use a stick or cane, or can visit to put tactile markings on domestic appliances to help people find the right setting on their cooker or washing machine.

SAVI run various recreation and leisure activities for children and young people - from theatre trips to paragliding. For more information, see their website or call them (see Local Contacts for details).

## 6 Other equipment from the NHS



**Your GP can prescribe items from an approved list.** These include pressure relieving cushions and mattresses, and continence pads. The NHS does lend wheelchairs to people, but only if the need is temporary. If your son or daughter has long-term mobility needs, you may get help from your local authority.



## 7 Equipment from the Local Authority

**Equipment that can make it easier to manage at home is usually provided by Surrey County Council social care departments following an assessment by an occupational therapist.**

Equipment can help with preparing food or managing personal care. Kettle tippers or tap turners can help in the kitchen. Furniture raisers can be used to raise the height of chairs and beds to make getting up easier. Bath seats, raised toilet seats or hoists can help in the bathroom.

Adaptations can be made to your home, such as attaching handrails, changing the position of light switches or sockets or door entry systems.

Contact Surrey County Council (see Useful Contacts) to find out more.

## 8 Disabled Living Centres



**There are Disabled Living Centres (DLC) around the country, which have permanent exhibitions on display.** They provide advice, assessment (usually free) and the opportunity to try out a whole range of equipment, such as kitchen equipment, communication aids or continence. The centres do not sell the equipment, and so the information is impartial.

Disabled Living Centres also provide a valuable source of information relating to access, design and equipment for daily living.

There is no DLC in Surrey currently, however there are centres in Beckenham, Croydon, Eastbourne, London and Brighton. (See Assist UK in Useful Contacts)

## 9 Home improvement agencies



**Home improvement agencies are small, not-for-profit organisations that help disabled people (and other vulnerable tenants) to repair, improve, maintain or adapt their homes.** This work can range from small jobs such as fitting new locks, to major adaptations.

Specialist staff can help with drawing up plans of work, finding good quality builders and overseeing the work from start to finish, including site visits and inspections. They can also advise you on what funding may be available.

Home improvement agencies are sometimes also called “Care and Repair” schemes or “Staying Put” schemes. Almost all the local districts and boroughs in Surrey have their own schemes. **Foundations** is the national body for home improvement agencies, appointed by the government. To find out more go to [www-foundations.com](http://www-foundations.com), email: [foundations@cel.co.uk](mailto:foundations@cel.co.uk) or call 01457 891909.

## 10 Other help



**Disabled people may not have to pay VAT on the cost of some building work involved in adaptations to their homes.** They may also be exempt from VAT on certain equipment. This will depend on factors such as whether the equipment is intended for use by anyone else.

Manufacturers and specialist disability shops normally keep a supply of declaration forms, which you need to complete and sign. On the form you, or your son or daughter, will be asked to state that they are eligible for VAT exemption because they are chronically sick or disabled. You can then buy the equipment without paying VAT.

**Call the VAT Helpline on 0845 010 9000 to find out more.**

If you adapt your home so that you, or another disabled person, can live there, you may be eligible for a one-band reduction on your Council Tax (for example, from Band D to Band C).

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## Useful Contacts



### National

#### **Assist UK (formerly the Disabled Living Centres Council)**

**Address:** Redbank House  
4 St Chad's Street  
Cheetham  
Manchester M8 8QA

**Telephone:** 0870 770 2866

**Website:** [www.assist-uk.org](http://www.assist-uk.org)

**Email:** [general.info@assist-uk.org](mailto:general.info@assist-uk.org)

Assist UK is the National network for advice on independent living equipment. Currently there are about 50 member Disabled Living Centres (see above).

## The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

**Telephone:** 0845 602 7885

**Email:** [info@thecbf.org.uk](mailto:info@thecbf.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.thecbf.org.uk](http://www.thecbf.org.uk)

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation has a number of information leaflets, including one about specialist equipment and safety adaptations for children and adults with severe learning disabilities and challenging behaviour. The leaflet lists some of the considerations which can help to improve safety and protect the living environment, and gives suppliers' contact details.

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## Disabled Living Foundation

**Address:** 380-384 Harrow Road  
London W9 2HU

**Helpline:** 0845 130 9177 Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

**Email:** [helpline@dlf.org.uk](mailto:helpline@dlf.org.uk)

**General Email:** [info@dlf.org.uk](mailto:info@dlf.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.dlf.org.uk](http://www.dlf.org.uk)

Provides advice on equipment for disabled people, with a separate section about children. Produces a series of fact sheets and has a database of suppliers, and an equipment demonstration centre in London. The fact sheets include information on features to look for when choosing items.

If you want advice about specific equipment that can help you, you can contact their helpline or use their self assessment tool, AskSARA, to answer questions about your situation and obtain an individual report with tips just for you and ideas about equipment that can help you. **Website:** [www.asksara.org.uk](http://www.asksara.org.uk)

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## Naidex - "The ultimate event for homecare, disability and rehabilitation"

**Address:** Emap Healthcare  
Greater London House  
Hampstead Road  
London NW1 7EJ

**Telephone:** 020 7728 4262

**Email:** [bindi.chakkl@emap.com](mailto:bindi.chakkl@emap.com)

**Website:** [www.naidex.co.uk](http://www.naidex.co.uk)

This event is held once a year (usually in April) at the Birmingham NEC. In 2010, over 11,000 people (both parents and professionals) attended over three days.

## **Ace Centre Advisory Trust**

**Address:** 92 Windmill Road  
Headington  
Oxford  
OX3 7DR

**Telephone:** 01865 759800

**Email:** (general enquiries): [info@ace-centre.org.uk](mailto:info@ace-centre.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.ace-centre.org.uk](http://www.ace-centre.org.uk)

Provides information to parents and professionals working with non-speaking children and adults. The Centre covers the South of England and holds information days, by appointment only, each month.

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## **Useful Contacts**



### **Local**

#### **Surrey County Council Contact Centre**

**Telephone:** 03456 009 009

**Website:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk)

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#### **Physical and Sensory Support (PSS)**

The Physical and Sensory Support (PSS) team use specialist knowledge to support children and young people with physical, hearing or visual impairment from the ages of 0 - 19.

PSS also has a Post-16 Team, which provides a countywide support service for students in further or higher education with a hearing loss, visual impairment and/or physical disability.

Professionals, including your GP or your child's teacher, will be able to refer your child for support from the PSS team if they are eligible.

**Website:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk) > learning > teachers & educational staff > services for children

## **Disability Equipment Service (DES)**

**Telephone:** 0800 0439395

**Website:** [www.askdes.org.uk](http://www.askdes.org.uk)

Disability Equipment Service lists second-hand equipment being sold by individuals in specific areas. The lists are maintained by local disability charities. You can view the local lists of equipment for sale on their website, or telephone them. The website also contains useful information about equipment for people with disabilities.

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## **Social Information on Disability (SID)**

**Telephone:** 0800 0439 395

**Website:** [www.asksid.org.uk](http://www.asksid.org.uk)

SID is a registered charity based in Surrey.

SID's activities include:

- Freephone, confidential information service
  - Listing of second hand equipment for sale for adults and young people
  - Website of key disability organisations in Surrey
  - Regular information exchange workshops
  - Database of short breaks
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## **Surrey Association for Visual Impairment (SAVI)**

**Address:** Rentwood  
School Lane  
Fetcham  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 9JX

**Telephone:** 01372 377701

**Minicom:** 01372 361517

**Email:** [info@sa-vi.org.uk](mailto:info@sa-vi.org.uk)

**Website:** [www.sa-vi.org.uk](http://www.sa-vi.org.uk)

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## **Deaf Services**

**Address:** Fairmount House  
Bull Hill  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 7AH

**Telephone/ Minicom:** 01372 376558

**Fax:** 01372 360224

**Email:** [ssd.dst@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:ssd.dst@surreycc.gov.uk)

**SMS:** 07854 238787