



COPING WITH DISABILITIES

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Coping with disabilities

Some people are disabled by physical barriers which prevent them participating fully in society. Because, for instance, people make use of a wheelchair, they require barriers, like steps, to be removed or bypassed.

Such barriers can be found in properties owned by SHAL as well as in the wider society.

When people require assistance to cope with disabilities they are advised firstly to enquire of the Occupational Therapist Service (O.T.) at Somerset County Council.

The O.T. will be able to advise upon things you may be able to sort out yourself or, any aid or adaptations needed. SHAL does not become involved with the provision of aids, but can be involved with adaptations to a property.

The adaptations required fall into 2 categories, minor and major.

Minor adaptations

SHAL defines a minor adaptation as one costing £250 or less. SHAL has a small budget and will cover the cost of, for instance, handrails, steps, level taps etc that have been formally requested by an O.T.

Major adaptations

Sometimes major works are needed to a SHAL property, such as construction of a ground floor bedroom in an extension to the house. The O.T. will contact the local Home Improvement Agency and make a recommendation for a Disabled Facilities Grant, which is means tested.

An application for consent for this work to be carried out will be considered by SHAL.

Stairlifts

Sometimes stairlifts are funded by a Disabled Facilities Grant. When the stairlift is installed it is the property of the occupiers. Usually repairs and maintenance in the first year are covered by the manufacturer's guarantee. Subsequently SHAL will maintain the stairlift. When the tenant leaves they should take it with them. If the stairlift is left behind it will be removed and recycled.