

HELP SHEET: AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS (draft)

Hanover is committed to enabling residents to continue to live independently in their own homes and to enjoy a good quality of life through the provision of aids and adaptations wherever it is reasonable and possible to do so and within budgetary constraints.

This help sheet describes how we do that.

1. Minor Adaptations

Hanover funds minor adaptation projects for eligible residents up to a maximum of £500. Examples include the installation of grab rails, and lever taps etc – the provision of equipment should be within three months subject to budget constraints, but normally without any waiting time.

2. Major Adaptations

Major adaptations typically include;

- Bathroom adaptations/Level Access Showers
- Ramps
- Stairlifts
- Kitchen Alterations
- Hard standing
- Specialist Equipment

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG)

Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) are administered by local councils and can provide funding to help towards the cost of adapting homes to enable residents to continue to live independently. A grant is usually paid when the council considers that changes are necessary to meet a resident's needs, and that the work is reasonable and practical.

Hanover will support a resident's application for Disabled Facilities Grants and employs an Aids and Adaptations Officer to do this. In the first instance a report from an Occupational Therapist will be required to support a DFG application.

The amount paid for a “tenant’s application” is based on a financial assessment – a 'means test' – of the resident’s weekly income in relation to their outgoings. DFG applicants receiving Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit and Tax Credits for those on low incomes are not required to provide any further financial information in addition to these benefits. Means testing will take into account savings above a certain limit. The amount of financial assistance offered can vary.

Funding from Hanover

Hanover may fund adaptations in certain circumstances and will apply the same means test which is used for DFG applicants;

- where residents apply for, but are unsuccessful in achieving a DFG or funding from other sources (excluding as a result of means test)
- where there is an unacceptable delay in local authorities offering DFG funding; (*waits of 2 years or more are common for routine applications*)
- In areas where DFG funding is unavailable

Residents will not be entitled to receive funding via Hanover’s Aids & Adaptations budget if;

- Their required contribution exceeds the cost of the works
- They refuse to apply for a DFG or undertake the means test
- They refuse to pay their assessed contribution

Further details are available from the Aids and Adaptations officer, Karen Langford who can be contacted by telephoning 01480 223168 or emailing Karen.langford@hanover.org.uk

Further information on Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG), is available:

Government website at www.direct.gov.uk;

Age UK provide leaflets and information on adaptations to your home www.ageuk.org.uk or tel 0800 169 6565;

Citizens Advice Bureau at www.adviceguide.org.uk