

Finding Your Own Solution

If you are not eligible for services, or wish to purchase your own equipment but would like some help in knowing what is available and what would be the best option to meet your needs, you can:

1. Complete an online, self-assessment tool known as "AskSARA". AskSARA is an easy-to-use, award-winning self-help guide that is particularly useful if you are not sure what items might help you. www.asksara.org.uk
2. Visit any of the participating retailers in this leaflet or local mobility centres.
3. Contact the Access & Information Centre, which is a single point of contact for older people's services in the Trust on 028 30 835 405 who will be able to give you information and support.

Transforming Community Equipment

Equipment to Help You with Daily Living



Choice



Independence



Control

Equipment for everyday living

Equipment for everyday living are simple items that help an individual manage everyday tasks at home, such as preparing food, getting out of bed or visiting the bathroom, which will increase their independence. Examples of simple aids could include a rail by the bed, a bath aid to help with getting in and out of the bath, or a raised toilet seat to assist those with restricted mobility.

If assessment by a health or social care practitioner, such as a District Nurse, Physiotherapist or Occupational Therapist, shows you need simple equipment, and if you meet the criteria, you will be provided with an Equipment Voucher which will list the items most appropriate to meet your needs.

What to do with your Equipment Voucher?

If you are given an Equipment Voucher, you will also be given a list of Participating Retailers to choose from. These are mostly pharmacies or mobility shops. You, a friend or family member, can take the Voucher to one of the participating retailer outlets on the list and exchange it for the simple aids you have been assessed for. Even if you don't have a Voucher, you can still buy equipment from the retailer and receive the same advice and assistance.

At the pharmacy or shop, you will also have the option to choose a different product to the one you have been prescribed, as long as it does the same job. In this way, you can either take the "basic" item as prescribed free of charge, or "top-up" to the cost of a more desirable item of your choice, as long as it meets the same need. You will only need to pay the difference in the cost of the item.

All equipment will come with fitting instructions to ensure that you, or someone who is helping you, will be able to install the equipment safely and correctly.

You will own the equipment and you are responsible for looking after it and are asked to dispose of it thoughtfully when you no longer need it. You may also consider holding on to the item in case you need it again in the future.

What do I do of the equipment breaks or needs replacing?

As with other items that you own, if there is a problem with the equipment, you should contact the retailer in the first instance. Once you have received your equipment, you may want to let us know whether or not you are happy with it. Generally, you only need to contact us if there is a problem.

Specialist Equipment

The system for specialist equipment has not changed. If your assessment determines that you require more specialist equipment such as a bath-lift, pressure cushion or hoist, these items will be loaned to you by the Southern Health and Social Care Trust and will not be provided via the local retailers. Your health or social care practitioner will make arrangements for these items to be delivered directly to you.