

Contact details

West Sussex NHS

Please contact your GP surgery or community nursing service for information or advice about the equipment they provide.

If you are in hospital and feel you will need equipment when you are discharged please ask the staff on your ward to advise you.

Each hospital – and the Primary Care Trust – also has a Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) manager. They can provide you with information or help you with any difficulties or concerns you may have.

- www.nhs.uk

PALS (south east area)

- Phone: 01903 505456

PALS (north east area)

- Phone: 01293 600399

PALS (west area)

- Phone: 01243 534035

Other organisations

British Red Cross

- Phone: 0800 5878 929
- www.redcross.org.uk

ICIS : Information for Life

If you want general information about equipment please contact ICIS. They can provide information about services in West Sussex that offer care, support or advice.

- Freephone: 0800 859929 (voice and text)
- www.icis-info4life.org.uk

West Sussex County Council

Child Disability Teams

For equipment for a child or young person.

- Horsham, Crawley, and Mid Sussex
Phone: 01403 246450
- Shoreham, Worthing, Littlehampton, Bognor, and Chichester
Phone: 01243 642424

OT Connect

For equipment for an adult.

- OT Connect
Adults' social care
First Floor, Centenary House
Durrington Lane
Worthing BN13 2QB
- Phone: 01903 839100
- Fax: 01903 839854
- E-mail : ot.connect@westsussex.gov.uk

Sensory Service

If you have a sensory impairment, please contact the sensory service team.

- Phone: 01903 745331
- Fax: 01903 746760
- Textphone: 01403 213249
- SMS: 07736 093462

Other formats

If you would like the information in this leaflet on audio tape, in Braille, or in another language, please contact us.

www.westsussex.gov.uk
socialcare@westsussex.gov.uk

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Equipment to help you to live independently

West Sussex County Council and the NHS provide equipment to enable people to live independently at home.



We can help people with physical disabilities, or a sensory impairment, such as partial sightedness or hearing problems. The equipment can assist with activities such as:

- eating and drinking
- dressing
- going to the toilet
- bathing
- getting about at home

Equipment is provided free of charge through our Community Equipment Service on a loan basis. The service is available for anyone who lives permanently in West Sussex, or who is registered with a West Sussex GP surgery.

Equipment supplied by the county council

The county council can lend you equipment to enable you, for example, to:

- use the bath
- get on or off the toilet
- use the stairs
- get in or out of your home
- remain independent if you have sensory loss

Please contact the county council if you think you need equipment to help you to manage everyday life and remain independent. The contact numbers are on the back page.

We will ask you some questions about your situation so that we can find out how we can

best help you. We may also need to visit you at home.

Direct payments, where money is given to people with a long term illness or disability to pay for help of their choice, can be used to purchase some items of equipment.

Equipment supplied by the NHS

If you are currently receiving treatment at home, your health professional – community nurse, physiotherapist, or health occupational therapist – can provide many simple items of equipment. These include:

- bath aids
- trolleys
- commodes

They may also prescribe nursing and medical equipment, such as:

- nursing beds
- equipment to prevent pressure sores
- walking frames
- crutches

People in hospital are assessed by the ward or Accident and Emergency service team as part of a 'going home' plan.

If you think you or someone you care for needs equipment for nursing or medical care, please contact your GP surgery or the health professional you are in contact with.

Community Equipment Service

If either the county council or the NHS decide with you that equipment is needed, the Community Equipment Service will then:

- deliver it to your home
- make sure it is safely fitted
- make sure you understand how to use it
- maintain it when necessary
- collect it when it is no longer required – this could be because you no longer need it or because you move out of the county

Equipment we lend you is intended for use in your own home. If you want to use it anywhere else please discuss this with the person who orders it for you.

Wheelchairs

Wheelchairs for permanent use are provided by West Sussex Primary Care Trust's 'Wheelchair Service'. Referrals are made through healthcare professionals.

If you need a wheelchair for short-term use such as holiday stays, please contact your GP or community nursing service.

They may refer you to your local British 'Red Cross' service. The Red Cross do not charge people but may ask for a donation to help them to cover the cost of providing the service.