

Direct Payments for care in North Somerset

Fact sheet 5

Using a direct payment to purchase equipment

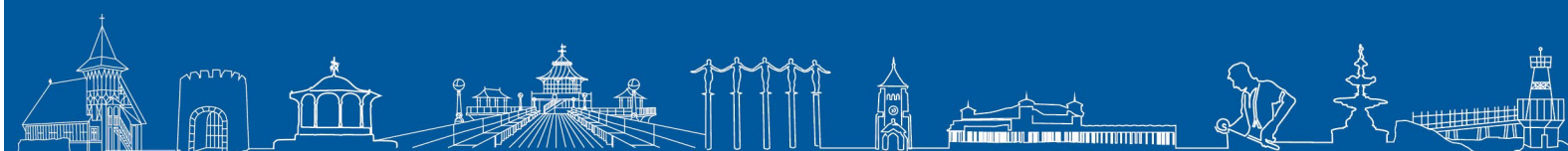
If you are assessed as needing a piece of equipment or a minor adaptation then the council has a contract with a provider, Medequip, to provide this. This includes any maintenance or repairs that are required.

If you would prefer an alternative item which offers something additional to that which would be offered by Medequip you can request a direct payment to purchase this yourself.

An occupational therapist employed by North Somerset Council must be satisfied that the equipment or adaptation that you intend to purchase with the direct payment will meet your assessed needs adequately.

If you require home adaptations you may be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant [Disabled Facilities Grants: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/topics/disabled-facilities-grants) (www.gov.uk).

For more information you can contact occupational therapy via care connect 01275 888 801.



Contributing towards a direct payment for equipment

The direct payment offered would cover the cost of the equipment we commission via Medequip and you would be expected to pay any additional cost.

If the proposed equipment to be purchased costs less than the Medequip catalogue price plus delivery, then the direct payment will be based on the lower cost.

Maintenance of equipment

If you have a direct payment to purchase an item or adaptation, then it is your responsibility to ensure its maintenance and to pay for any repairs required. If an accident occurs (e.g. to a personal assistant) because you have not had the equipment maintained properly, then you would be liable for this.

The council does not advise the purchase of second-hand equipment.

Examples of types of equipment that require planned preventative maintenance:

- Powered bath lifts
- Riser recliner chairs.
- Hoists
- Powered beds

Leasing of equipment

A direct payment can be used for an equipment leasing arrangement, if it is agreed that this is a cost-effective way of meeting the assessed need.

For example, if a person requires a piece of equipment to use when in respite that is not available in the care home, the council will consider a

direct payment to enable the person to lease the equipment during the course of their stay.

How to contact North Somerset social services:

Care connect is the first point of contact for all social services adult care general enquiries.

Care Connect

Town Hall
Walliscotte Grove Road
Weston-super-Mare
BS23 1UJ

Telephone: 01275 888 801

email: careconnect@n-somerset.gov.uk

Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. Contact adultspolicy@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Reviewed 06/05/2025