

make it happen

Mobility Scooters: What you need to know





Introduction

Mobility scooters can be a great help in reducing isolation and promoting independence. Before buying a mobility scooter make sure you have considered storage, charging and access to your home.

- Will your scooter fit through the gate?
- Will it fit through your front door if you need to use it, or store it inside?
- Will you need to fold or dismantle your scooter for storage?
- Will you need a ramp for any steps?
- Can you store your scooter safely?
- Does your outside store have power, or will you have to remove the batteries for charging inside?

The first thing to do is to agree any purchase with your Housing Officer or Housing with Support Officer. They can help you decide whether it is practical and safe to keep a scooter at your property. Call us on **0800 694 3101**.

Please note – you cannot store or charge a mobility scooter in the communal areas of blocks or Housing with Support Schemes. If you need to make changes to your home to store, charge or mobilise the scooter there are four main options available to you.



Option 1.

DIY - Do it yourself

You may decide to pay for and arrange the work yourself. This could be a ramp to replace steps or a temporary building to store and charge your scooter.

If we don't carry out the work you will need "Landlord's Consent" so again, your first point of contact here should be your Housing Officer or Housing with Support Officer. They can offer advice on the factors to consider such as health and safety and how your proposed changes will affect other residents.

In order to do the work yourself you may decide to hire a builder or other professional. To help you find trustworthy, reliable traders operating to government endorsed standards in your area, visit trustmark.org.uk

Trustmark is a not for profit organisation, licenced by government and supported by consumer protection groups. Everything you need to know should be available on this website. TrustMark does also offer a 24/7 telephone help line on: **01344 666 104** (charged at standard rate).



Option 2.

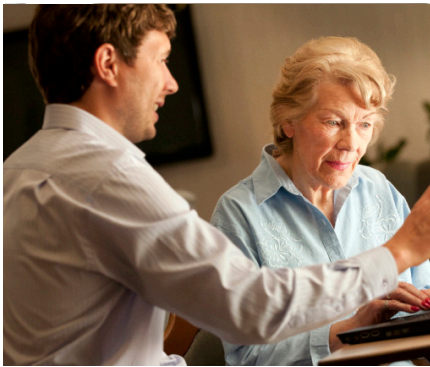
Apply for a disabled facilities grant (DFG)

Disabled Facilities Grants are accessed through the Local Authority (Plymouth City Council) to pay for essential housing adaptations to help disabled people stay in their own homes and live an independent life. The changes must be necessary and appropriate to meet your needs and the work must be reasonable and practical.

A Disabled Facilities Grant is a means tested grant, it will not affect any benefits that you're getting. As a PCH tenant or leaseholder you can apply for a grant from Plymouth City Council if you or someone living in your property is disabled.

How to apply

In Plymouth, applications are handled by the council's Disabled Facilities Grant team. To apply directly call **01752 307076**. Applying for a DFG often requires an Occupational Therapist assessment. You can request an Occupational Therapists Assessment to help you with your application by calling Adult Social Care on **01752 306900**.



Option 3.

Seek charitable help

If you choose to carry out the work yourself and, the statutory authorities can't help you to pay for the work, you may be able to approach a charity or trust specialising in grants for disabled people.

Charities and grant-giving trusts rarely give money for things that you could get through, or which could be funded by, statutory sources*. Don't apply for a grant from a charity or trust unless you've checked whether you can get something through a statutory source like the council first.

**advice
plymouth**



Talk to Plymouth Disability Advice Service (via Advice Plymouth) to help you know which funding options are out there for you.

Open Monday-Friday 8am - 8pm
Saturday 8am - 1pm

or drop in:

Ernest English House,
Buckwell Street,

Plymouth

PL1 2DA

Monday- Friday 9am-5pm

Thursday 9am - 8pm

Call Advice Plymouth:
01752 520052

*(Which are funded by Government)



Option 4. Consider Rehousing

With so many regulations and factors involved in adaptation work, it is not always feasible to adapt a PCH property. If this is the case where you live but you would still like to use a mobility scooter, it may be worth considering other housing options open to you.

In the first instance speak to your Housing Officer or Housing with Support Officer call us on **0800 694 3101**.

Most housing associations in Plymouth have adapted stock and level access housing that may be more suitable for your needs. You can browse to see what's available at [devonhomechoice.com](https://www.devonhomechoice.com)

To apply, you need to be registered with Devon Home Choice. You can apply online at [devonhomechoice.com](https://www.devonhomechoice.com) or contact Plymouth City Council's Housing Advice on **01752 305496** or housingoptions@plymouth.gov.uk

You may also decide to register with [homeswapper.co.uk](https://www.homeswapper.co.uk). Home Swapper is a direct, nationwide home swap service for social housing tenants who want to mutually exchange properties. PCH is a registered partner so registration is free for our tenants.

Helpful Contacts

For more advice on how to safely keep a mobility scooter at your home, including fire safety, read the PCH Mobility Scooter Policy at our website (plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk). For more information contact your Housing Officer or Housing with Support Officer on 0800 694 3101.

Some good resources online (this list is by no means exhaustive)

Turn 2 Us (turn2us.org.uk/grants)

Visit this website and use the free 'Grants Search tool' to help you find the most appropriate funds based on your circumstances and needs.

Disability Grants (disability-grants.org)

This website has comprehensive information and a search engine.

Independence at Home (independenceathome.org.uk) 020 8427 7929

Independence at Home is a charity that provides grants to people of all ages who have a physical or learning disability or long term illness and who are in financial need.

The Mobility Trust (mobilitytrust.org.uk)

This organisation concentrates on providing powered wheelchairs and scooters for severely disabled children and adults who cannot obtain them through statutory sources or purchase the equipment themselves.

AFTAID (aftaid.org.uk)

This charity provides grants to individuals over retirement age and on low income.

Scope (scope.org.uk)

Scope is a charity for disabled people. They do not give out grants but for disability information, call free 0808 800 3333.

SSAFA / Royal British Legion (ssafa.org.uk) (britishlegion.org.uk)

Both SSAFA and the Royal British Legion offer lifelong support for all serving members and former members of all ranks of the Armed Forces.

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