



Supporting BME Communities
and Multi-Cultural Neighbourhoods

Aids & Adaptations



What do if you want or need any alterations to your property

Aids & Adaptations

Sometimes, people find that age or disabilities make it difficult to carry out day-to-day tasks. If you need changes to your home to make it easier for you to manage, we call this 'aids and adaptations'. It doesn't have to be the tenant who needs the changes to their home. It could be any member of the household that lives there, e.g. a child or parent.

Minor works

If you need small adaptations to your home, Unity will pay for them, as long as there is enough money in our aids and adaptations budget. We aim to visit you quickly and to carry out the work within 28 days, but complicated jobs may take longer.

Minor works include the following kind of things:

- Grab rails
- Lever taps
- Aids to make it easier to use bathroom locks
- Intercom or door entry system

Major works

Major works are larger adaptations that will cost over £1,000. For these, you need to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant from the council. Major works can include things like stair lifts, extensions, wet-floor showers, or ramp access.

Applying for a disabled facilities grant

If you need adaptations that are likely to cost over £1,000, you will need to apply to the council for a Disabled Facilities Grant.

Step 1 Contact Leeds Social Care

You can call Leeds Social Care on 0113 222 4401. Ask them to assess you for the adaptations that you need. They will either assess you over the phone, or they will make an appointment for an occupational therapist (OT) to come and visit you.

Step 2 Occupational Therapist (OT) Assessment

If the OT thinks that you need aids or adaptations, they will decide what you need and how high a priority it is. The council's target time for getting the work done depends on the priority that the OT gave it.

High priority - within 4 months
Medium priority - within 6 months
Low priority - within 10 months

Step 3 Means Test

The council's adaptations department will contact you to look at your income and your savings; They do this to see if they think you should pay for any of the work yourself. When they have done this, they will write to let you know if you qualify for a grant.

Step 4 Surveyor's Report

If you qualify for a grant, the council will arrange for a surveyor to visit your home. The surveyor will measure up and produce a plan.

Step 5 Approval

The council will ask Unity for approval to do the work to our property. Before we give permission, we will check if the adaptation needs repairs, servicing or replacement in the future. If it does, we will talk to you about who will pay for this.

Step 6 Doing the work

The contractor will contact you to arrange to measure up again. They will then carry out the work. If you are unhappy about the quality of work or the contractor, please contact the council's adaptations department.

Step 7 Inspection

The council will send out a surveyor to inspect the work. Unity might come and inspect it as well.

Repairing and servicing adaptations

Some adaptations (e.g. stair lifts, batch hoists) need regular servicing and repairs to make sure that they are safe. They will also need replacing at the end of their useful life.

You have two choices:

Choice 1

Unity will take on responsibility for servicing, repairing and/or eventually replacing your adaptation if you agree to pay for it through a service charge. The service charge will be included with your rent and may be eligible for housing benefit.

Choice 2

You can take on responsibility for the adaptation yourself. Unity will then have no responsibility for its care or replacement. You will have to remove it yourself if it is no longer needed or has broken and cannot be repaired.

Useful contacts

Leeds Social Care

If you want an assessment for a Disabled Facilities Grant or want to see if you can get any other help, you need to contact Leeds Social Care

 **0113 222 4401**

Textphone: **0113 222 4410**

 **onestop@leeds.gov.uk**

Problems understanding?

If you need any of our information translating or if you need an interpreter, please contact us. We can also provide this information in large print or on CD if you need us to.

One Stop Centres

To speak to someone in person, try your local One Stop Centres. They deal with a wide range of council enquiries including Leeds Social Care, and are generally open 8.30am-4.00pm.

Armley

2 Stocks Hill, LS12 1UQ

Beeston

190 Dewsbury Road, LS11 6PF

City Centre

2 Great George Street, LS2 8BA

Chapeltown

Reginald Centre, 263 Chapeltown Road, LS7 3EX

Harehills

Compton Centre, 332 Harehills Lane, LS9 7BG

DIAL (Disability Information and Advice Line)

Telephone information and advice for disabled people and carers in the Leeds area. Free confidential, independent and impartial advice on benefits, services, facilities and opportunities for disabled people.

 **0113 214 3630**

Textphone: **0113 214 3627**

web: www.dialuk.info

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
10.30am-3.30pm. Closed Wednesdays.

Unity Housing Association Ltd
113-117 Chapeltown Road, Leeds, LS7 3HY

 **0113 200 7700**

 **uha@unityha.co.uk**

web: www.unityha.co.uk



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