

# Assistance with Adaptations



Do you own your home?

Do you rent privately?

Do you rent from the Council?

Or from Orkney Housing Association?



# Introduction

This leaflet is for people living in Orkney who would like to find out more or benefit from adaptations to their home.

It explains how to make your home suitable for someone with mobility problems or a disability whether you:

- Own your own home (or are in the process of buying).
- Rent from a private landlord.
- Rent from Orkney Islands Council.
- Rent from Orkney Housing Association Ltd.
- Other.



## What is an adaptation?

An “*adaptation*” covers a range of changes, improvements or alterations to a property that can help make the day to day living of someone who is disabled or has difficulties due to age, impairment, ill health, or a traumatic injury, better.

Orkney Health & Care Occupational Therapists can assess you for assistance with equipment, small adaptations and major adaptations, depending on

your individual circumstances.

Each assessment is given a priority rating - for example, urgent works which are preventing a hospital discharge (or a possible hospital admission) will be given greater priority.

If you require assistance with repairs, improvements, energy advice or other works please speak to your landlord or if you live in a private sector property please contact Orkney Care & Repair who deliver the "Scheme of Assistance".



## My home needs a major adaptation to make it suitable for me

If you require more significant adaptations such as a level access shower, alternative toilet facilities, stair lift, ramps, etc. then an Occupational Therapist will visit and provide a full assessment of your needs.

Their recommendations will include the works required to improve safety and access inside or outside your home.

If you rent a property from the Council or Housing Association the Occupational Therapist will advise your landlord of your requirements and request appropriate works to be carried out.

If you are in privately rented property or own your own house, then grants from 50-100% may be available if you are in receipt of appropriate benefits. Orkney Care & Repair will assist you to access help through the "Scheme of Assistance" which they deliver.

This service can:

- Advise and help with an individually tailored programme of adaptations.
- Give an idea on how much the works will cost.
- Help you find suitable builders.
- Assist you to fill in forms and organise paperwork.
- Help to organise plans and specifications.
- Advise and help to compile a financial package that will enable the works to proceed; including application for appropriate grants and loans.
- Help you cope while the works are being done.
- Advise and help with alternative solutions if required.

In some cases, proposals may not be sustainable, circumstances might change, or the property might suffer deterioration, in which case you may wish to discuss alternatives including leaving an unsuitable property and living elsewhere.

Further information on Housing Options is available from Orkney Islands Council.

# I need a small adaptation or piece of equipment to help me with my day to day living

Items of equipment such as shower stools and small adaptations such as grab rails are available to help you manage more easily at home.

Usually an Occupational Therapist will help you look at what is causing difficulty. They can provide information and advice or arrange for an appropriate service to deliver equipment or install an appropriate adaptation. However, for many minor adaptations you can refer yourself for help and may not need to wait for an Occupational Therapist to visit;

Initially contact your landlord:

- Orkney Islands Council.
- Orkney Housing Association.
- Or for private sector tenants/owner/occupiers; Orkney Care & Repair.



# SELBRO Resource Centre

Selbro Resource Centre is run by "Orkney Health & Care" and is open to the public from 2-4pm every Wednesday. Here, you can discuss your needs face to face with an Occupational Therapist and try out some of the equipment on display.

If you have problems with your sight or hearing you will be able to speak with the Rehabilitation Officer for Sensory Impairment.

A representative from Care & Repair is also available to give advice and help with advice around adaptations and repairs to your home.

Selbro is situated on Scott's Road, Hatston, Kirkwall, KW15 1GR. You will find it has easy access with lots of parking space.



# Other Advice and Information

For **repairs** and other issues related to a tenancy please contact your landlord in the first instance.

Care and Repair's Small Repairs Service carries out minor works of repair, maintenance or adaptation for private sector householders who are elderly or who have a disability.



## **If you want to:**

- Request further information.
- Arrange a home visit.
- Download leaflets.
- Request a booklet in an alternative format e.g. large print, braille, computer disc, audio tape or other language.

Further contact details can be found on the back page.

# Contact Details

## Occupational Therapy (OT) also Selbro Resource Centre

Orkney Health and Care

Selbro Resource Centre

Scotts Road

Hatston

Orkney. KW15 1GR

01856 873535

[CommunityOT@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityOT@orkney.gov.uk)

[www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk)

## Orkney Care and Repair

39a Victoria Street

Kirkwall

Orkney. KW15 1DN

01856 873369

[admin@orkneycareandrepair.co.uk](mailto:admin@orkneycareandrepair.co.uk)

## Orkney Islands Council (OIC) also Housing Options

School Place

Kirkwall

Orkney. KW15 1NY

01856 873535

[CommunityOT@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityOT@orkney.gov.uk)

[www.orkney.gov.uk](http://www.orkney.gov.uk)

## Orkney Housing Association Ltd (OHAL)

39a Victoria Street

Kirkwall

Orkney. KW15 1DN

01856 875253

[enquiries@ohal.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ohal.org.uk) [www.ohal.org.uk](http://www.ohal.org.uk)