

Buying and Owning Equipment



You may choose to use your Direct Payment to buy equipment to help meet your eligible care and support needs. Whether you are buying specialist equipment or if you are buying an everyday item to support you then here are some useful pointers for you need to think about.

Things to think about	Questions you may ask
What happens if the item is faulty or breaks down?	Does it come with a warranty or guarantee?
How long will I need the equipment to meet my needs?	Do I have options to change or upgrade the equipment in the future?
What funding options are available to me to pay for the equipment? Would you be eligible for a Disabled Facilities Grant?	What are my options for getting the equipment? Would it be better for me to lease or buy?
Where will I store the equipment? Do I have the space?	Will this equipment work alongside others I may have? Will I have to make any changes in my home?
Do I need to sort out training to use the equipment?	Where can I get help if I have problems with the equipment?
What happens if the equipment breaks or needs repairs	Does the equipment come with a warranty or get a regular service?

Other things to consider

- Some types of equipment may be provided for free through the Equipment & Adaptations Service (see link below)
- Do you need insurance for the equipment?
- Is renting the equipment an option or more cost effective?
- You are responsible for any maintenance and upkeep
- You are responsibility for all legal and contractual issues once become the owner of the equipment
- You are responsible for paying for the full costs of the equipment using your Direct Payment and any contribution you have been assessed as being able to pay

Is it equipment or an adaptation?

If you install equipment into your home then it might be a fixture of the property and you need to be clear about who will own the item and what will happen to it if you move to a new house.

A fixture or adaptation is an item that is fixed, meaning that it is attached to a wall or floor, for example a stair lift that is screwed into the wall or hoist attached to the ceiling. If you do not own your property and want to buy equipment that will be fixed then you must first get the permission of the property owner. This is because the equipment or adaptation may become part of the property once it is fitted and therefore the property owner then also owns the equipment. This means you cannot take it with you if you move.

You can get advice from the First Contact team on 0114 273 4908 or on the Sheffield City Council Website at: <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/social-care/occupational-therapy-assistance-equipment>

What does the Direct Payment pay for?

The Direct Payment can cover the cost of the equipment and any insurance or service fees you need to put in place.

You should make sure that repairs and services are include where you can as the equipment needs to last and will not automatically be funded to be replaced.

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