

information) and they will deal with it as quickly as possible.

### What about direct payments?

If there is an assessed need for a piece of equipment at home, then a direct payment can be made for the family to buy their own piece of equipment. Further information is available from your therapist or the Direct Payments team.

### Contact information

#### Child Development Centre

John Parkes Unit  
Torbay Hospital  
Annexe  
Newton Road  
Torquay TQ2 7BA  
01803 655585

#### Children with Disability Service

Parkfield House  
38 Esplanade Road  
Paignton TQ3 2NH  
01803 402781

#### Community Equipment Service

Unit 1  
Woodview Road  
Paignton TQ4 7HP  
01803 528163

#### Disability Information Service

Chadwell Annexe  
Torquay Road  
Paignton TQ3 2DW  
01803 552175  
www.torbay.gov.uk/dis

#### Exeter Mobility Centre

Wonford Road  
Exeter EX2 4DU  
0845 762 6883  
www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/

#### Independent Living Centre

14 Marsh Green Road  
North  
Marsh Barton  
Exeter EX2 8LT  
01392 687276  
www.devon.gov.uk/ilc.htm

#### Direct Payments

Torbay Council  
Town Hall  
Castle Circus  
Torquay TQ1 3DS  
01803 208427  
www.torbay.gov.uk/directpayments

#### Disabled Living Foundation

www.dlf.org.uk

#### College of Occupational Therapists

106-114 Borough  
High Street  
Southwark  
London SE1 1LB  
020 7357 6480  
www.cot.org.uk

Equipment and aids  
for children with  
learning difficulties  
and disabilities

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This document can be made available in other languages, in Braille, large print and in other formats. For further information please contact 01803 402781

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*“Occupational Therapists work with people of all ages, helping them to carry out the activities that they need or want to do in order to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.”*

(College of Occupational Therapists, 2005)

One of the ways a children’s occupational therapist can help a child carry out their daily occupations is by recommending the use of specialist equipment. For some children, having the right equipment can enhance their ability to be more independent in their daily activities. Caring for a disabled child can also be made easier with the use of certain equipment, aids and / or adaptations to the home.

There is a wide range of equipment available and some of it is very expensive. This leaflet provides information about how equipment is provided for children with learning difficulties and disabilities who live in Torbay.

## Who provides what?

- If your child has a disability that is temporary or mild then the Disability Information Service can offer advice and information on specialist suppliers and other services that can help. The Disability Information Service can also provide advice on charities that may be able to help to buy equipment that statutory services do not provide such as for leisure activities. (See contact information)
- If your child needs equipment when they come out of hospital, or equipment that is related to their nursing care, then the hospital or GP services can provide information and support.

- Wheelchairs and buggies (not short term loan) are provided through Exeter Mobility Centre. Referrals can be made by accredited therapists such as an occupational therapist or physiotherapist.
- If your child has a permanent and substantial disability that is impacting on their ability to carry out their daily activities at home or at school, they may be eligible for an assessment from a children’s occupational therapist. (See leaflet – How does an occupational therapist make a difference to a child?)

The action plan that is made with the child and family might include a recommendation to use certain specialist equipment. This might include specialist chairs, hoists, bathing, toileting or feeding equipment. Physiotherapists work closely with occupational therapists and can provide mobility, standing and sleeping aids. This equipment can be provided by Children’s Services and Torbay Care Trust through the community equipment service.

- We can support and provide access to advice and the provision of a range of other equipment such as IT, car seats and vehicle access, trikes and bikes and toys.

## What happens after the assessment by the occupational therapist or physiotherapist?

The therapist will work with the child and family to identify their needs and possible solutions. The therapist can then make arrangements to try the equipment out in the

environment it will be used in, for example at home or school.

When the therapist, child and family have agreed on the best option, the therapist will request funding from Children’s Services with a written report. This is usually considered in a monthly meeting of clinicians and managers, but urgent needs can be addressed within 48 hours.

Once the needs and provision have been approved, the therapist will place the order through the community equipment service. The community equipment service will deliver the equipment within 10 days if it is standard stock, but it may take longer if it is ordered specially.

If the equipment cannot be provided, Children’s Services will ensure the family are given the reasons why and alternatives to explore. The community equipment service or therapist will ensure the equipment is set up correctly for the child and provide advice and instruction on its use and care.

## Is there a charge?

Equipment for children is loaned free of charge for as long as it is needed. The appropriateness and fit of the equipment will be reviewed by a therapist on a regular basis. Any maintenance or checks of electrical or lifting equipment, and most repairs are carried out by the community equipment service.

All we ask is that the items are kept in good working order and in a clean condition. If there is a problem with an item then simply contact the community equipment service (see contact