

Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Service
- Disabled Facilities Grant – Top Up Funding Information.

The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is awarded by District Councils towards the cost of building adaptations for disabled children. The criteria for a DFG are outlined in Ch 6 Housing – from the Legal Handbook for Disabled Children. This is included in the Housing Information Pack.

If, following a Housing Needs Assessment, it is clearly identified that a Housing Adaptation is needed, and that it is likely to cost more than the maximum DFG (currently £30,000) there needs to be a clear discussion with the family as to how the shortfall will be met.

Cambridgeshire County Council will only consider a financial contribution once other statutory sources of funding have been accessed.

- For an owner occupied home, the County Council will only consider a financial contribution once a family's ability to fund works beyond a DFG limit has been fully considered. This can include either a loan or grant depending on individual circumstances and subject to Financial and Benefits Assessment (FABA) carried out by the County Council.
- For properties rented either through Social Landlords or the private sector it is accepted by the County Council that loans do not apply but that it is expected that County Council contributions will only be considered once the relevant District Council has appropriately considered use of its own permissive powers to contribute more than the DFG limit.
- The County Council's policy is to consider funding contributions that meet 'substantial and critical need'* and at a level that meets this need in the most economic manner.
- The guiding principle, when considering a contribution towards the shortfall, is that should Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Social Care be asked to provide personal care for the disabled child or young person, the housing solution that has been funded is of a standard whereby the Council's Community Support Service staff or commissioned agency would be able to safely deliver that personal care. If such care can be delivered within the existing home or with the maximum DFG amount, no additional funding support will be provided.
- It is expected that any funding request will be accompanied by a Social Care Core assessment, carried out by the Social Work Team, to complement recommendations from other sources. This assessment must identify how any proposed funding contribution will lead to better outcomes for the disabled child and their family, improving the situation for them.
- Proposed housing solutions must have been planned to meet the needs of the child or young person for the foreseeable future.

Description of 'Substantial' and 'Critical' Need:

***Substantial – when**

- there is, or will be, only partial choice and control over the immediate environment; and/or
- abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or
- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out the majority of personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- involvement in many aspects of work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- the majority of family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken

Critical - when

- life is, or will be, threatened; and/or
- significant health problems have developed or will develop; and/or
- there is, or will be, little or no choice and control over vital aspects of the immediate environment; and/or
- serious abuse or neglect has occurred or will occur; and/or
- there is, or will be, an inability to carry out vital personal care or domestic routines; and/or
- vital involvement in work, education or learning cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- vital social support systems and relationships cannot or will not be sustained; and/or
- vital family and other social roles and responsibilities cannot or will not be undertaken.

Richard Holland
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