

Factsheet



Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL) Grapevine Disability Information

Grapevine Advice Subjects

Grapevine provides local disability information and advice on a free, confidential and independent basis in Edinburgh. Our advice line is available for anyone to contact on 0131 475 2370 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm) and general email enquiries can be sent to: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk We also provide face to face appointments for disability benefit claims, outreach talks, newsletters and accessible publications.

Topics we specialise in:

Benefits

- For people of working age (16-65) we provide information on how to claim disability benefits, including reassessments, entitlement conditions and passported benefits for: **Disability Living Allowance; Personal Independence Payment; Disability Premiums; Employment and Support Allowance; The Work Capability Assessment; Pass-ported benefits.**
- Assistance is available with completing **Personal Independence Payment forms** with our specialist advisors, on an appointment basis (please call in advance).
- Exploration of **potential benefit entitlement for Older People** living in Edinburgh taking account of their possible entitlement to: Attendance Allowance; State Pension; Pension Credits, etc.
- Help is available with **completing an Attendance Allowance form**, which is arranged on an appointment basis



Benefit reconsiderations and appeals

- We can advise on challenging benefit decisions, including how to **request mandatory reconsiderations** (a template letter is available), and if unsuccessful **how to lodge an appeal** with Her Majesties Courts and Tribunal (HMCT) service and referrals to representation agencies.

Financial grants and money

- We can advise on financial assistance schemes to help people manage bills and household costs, e.g. **energy saving**, cold weather payments, foodbanks, etc.
- **Grant and trust searches** for individual people who require access to additional funding, whether it is for equipment, adaptations, holidays/short breaks, etc.



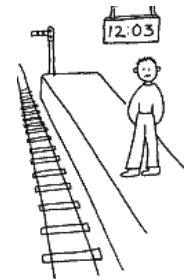
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- Information about the Edinburgh City Council (CEC) Payroll Framework for disabled people who employ their own Personal Assistants
- Referrals onto Debt Counselling agencies and money advice.
- Financial support via local authority schemes such as the Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments.
- A leaflet on VAT relief for disabled people is available.

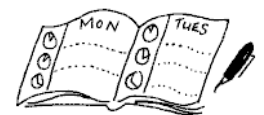
Access to Transport

- We can advise on all aspects of transport concessions, including entitlement to the: **Scotland wide Bus Pass; Taxicard; Blue Badge for parking; Disabled Person's Railcard; Motability Scheme and Free Road Tax Disk.**
- Local accessible transport schemes e.g. Dial a Ride; Dial a Bus and Lothian Community Transport.
- The information service also provides advice on access to travel by train, bus, plane, car and ferry.



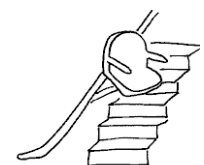
Community Care and Self-Directed Support

- Advice on **support at home, home care, Self-Directed Support options, Direct Payments** and other options towards Independent Living.
- Advice on **Community Care Assessments**, appealing decisions if refused a service, care charging and appealing decisions on care charges.
- Information on the range of support services and care providers in Edinburgh including up-to-date List of Care Agencies in the Lothians.
- We provide referrals onto **LCiL's Independent Living Team** for specialist advice and support with individual assessments, setting up packages of care and support and employing Personal Assistants.
- Information on Short Breaks and Respite.
- Befriending options.
- **Peer support groups at LCIIL.**



Housing and Adaptations

- We can provide information on accessible housing, including information on **grants for adaptations, local housing suppliers, applying for social housing, renting, buying and supported accommodation.**
- Information on support with cleaning, housework, gardening, decorating, housing repairs and other domestic tasks.
- Leaflet on **Council Tax Reduction scheme for disabled people.**



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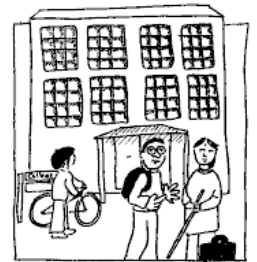
Equipment and adaptations

- Information on assessments for **equipment and adaptations**.
- Information on entitlement to equipment and NHS wheelchairs
- Information on charitable trusts and grants if the person is not entitled to statutory funding for equipment, adaptations or mobility aids.
- Publications of local suppliers to purchase as well as hire equipment
- Advice on **V.A.T. relief** on equipment for disabled people.



Employment and Education

- Information on education opportunities, grants for studying, studying whilst on benefits, access to local day and evening classes, support for disabled students and help with funding for studying.
- Employment support programmes, including **Access to Work**, Permitted Work scheme working whilst on benefits, where to go for employment and careers advice.
- Information on employment rights under The Equality Act and where to go for specialist legal advice.
- Information on volunteering and volunteering opportunities.
- Referrals to LCIIL's full range of **training and learning opportunities** for disabled people, Personal Assistants and organisations.



Holidays and Leisure

- Information on **accessible holidays**, self-catering, hotel and guest houses, adventure holidays, group holidays and holidays with care provided in Scotland, the UK and abroad.
- Information on **disability sports clubs**, Lothian Disability Sport, Edinburgh Leisure services, gyms and swimming pools.
- accessible leisure opportunities in Edinburgh from specialist arts classes, computer classes and groups, to mainstream community education classes in schools and community centres.



Access Issues

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- Advice on improving access for disabled people to employers, organisations and individuals, including accessing the internet and technology for disabled people.
- Access Audits, how to meet your duties under The Equality Act, or how to improve access for disabled people
- Guide on Accessible Meeting Places in Edinburgh and the Lothians.
- Sign posting on improving access and the built environment.
- We offer specialist advice on providing accessible information and formats available. This includes Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) standards.
- We can provide disabled people with **RADAR keys** at the standard fee of £3 or £3.50 (inc. P&P). Please call to arrange in advance.



Disability Equality and the Law

- General information on the rights of disabled people under The Equality Act and information on where to get further advice if you feel that you have been discriminated against.
- Advice on how to access various organisational complaint procedures.
- Referrals onto independent legal agencies.



Health and Personal Issues

- Information on NHS services, counselling services, support services for people experiencing mental health issues and those in crisis, for example during relationship breakdown or bereavement.
- Publication on Emotional Support Services in Edinburgh and the Lothians.
- We also have information on self-management courses and impairment specific support organisations and groups, e.g.: the MS Society, Arthritis Care, Parkinsons UK, etc.

Last updated: April 2017

Contact details

Tel: 0131 475 2370 (Monday-Thursday
10am-4pm)

Email: grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk

Website: www.lothiancil.org.uk

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