**Lothian Centre for Inclusive Living (LCiL)**

**Grapevine Disability Information Service**

**Applying for grants and trusts**

There are a number of grants and trust available which disabled people can apply to for financial assistance with a wide range of areas including but not limited to; aids and home adaptations; respite and holidays, specialised equipment and basic household white goods.

**Please note** that this factsheet offers general tips on applying for grants and trusts and we always recommend you contact individual grant and trust managers to discuss your eligibility before applying.

If you live in Edinburgh, the Grapevine Disability Information Service can provide you with relevant grants and trusts which are available and may be able to assist with financial help towards certain goods or services. Please note however, we cannot apply to grants or trusts on a person’s behalf.

**Statutory duties for health/social care to provide funding**

Before applying for aid from charitable trusts and grants it’s important to remember that your local authority has a statutory duty to provide funding in certain circumstances.

This includes;

* **Self-Directed Support (SDS)** The Social Care (Self Directed Support) (Scotland) Act came into force on the 1st of April 2014. This legislation should mean that anyone being assessed for care and support via their local authority must be offered choice about how they are supported. You can find out lots more about SDS via the LCiL website; [www.lothiancil.org.uk/our-services/independent-living-support-services/self-directed-support-questions-and-resources/](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/our-services/independent-living-support-services/self-directed-support-questions-and-resources/)
* **Scheme of Assistance** This Scottish Government scheme is administered by local authorities and replaces previous private sector home improvement grants. In Edinburgh the focus is on advice and practical support but for

disabled home owners, financial aid is available. You can find out more via; [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20057/housing\_support\_and\_advice/1084/help\_and\_advice\_for\_homeowners](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20057/housing_support_and_advice/1084/help_and_advice_for_homeowners)

* Help with health costs if you are on a low income the NHS offers a Low Income scheme for help with health costs; if you meet the criteria you can complete an application form called an ‘HC1’. The find out more about the criteria or to download and HC1 form visit; [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HealthCosts/1128.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/HealthCosts/1128.aspx)
* **The Scottish Welfare Fund** This Fund provides Community Care Grants and Crisis grants for vulnerable people on a low income and is administered by local authorities. You can find out more about the Fund via our factsheet; <http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Factsheet-Scottish-Welfare-Fund.doc>
* **The Edinburgh Fire Fund** This Crisis Fund can help people affected by fires at home. Find out more via; <http://www.eltf.org.uk/the-edinburgh-fire-fund/>
* **The NHS’ SMART Centre** provides a wide range of rehabilitation technology services for disabled people living in the Lothians. Visit their website for more information; [www.smart.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.smart.scot.nhs.uk)
* **Energy Saving Trust** This Trust offers grants and loans to help make your home more energy efficient, for example via upgrading insulation, double glazing or installing a new boiler. Find out more via; [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/scotland/grants-loans)

**Before you apply to a grant or trust**

Before applying for a grant or trust it’s worth speaking to them directly and ask about eligibility criteria or visit their website to find out more. Remember too that;

* Most will be means tested and will ask for evidence of your finances and any benefits you receive;
* Some grants and trusts can be applied for directly by individuals, others allow for a third party (like an occupational therapist, social worker or local charity) to apply on your behalf;
* You should have a clear idea of what you need or how much money you will need; do your research and get quotes in advance;
* You will need to indicate if you have been assessed for any statutory service which may provide the same outcomes;
* You may need to provide medical evidence and/or letters of support from professionals involved in your care and support.

**Things to remember**

* There may be benevolent funds open to people from particular work backgrounds and trades (and their families)
* There are condition-specific grants and trusts; for example, Chest Heart & Stroke and the MS Society have their own funding.
* Disabled people can claim VAT relief on goods and services related directly to their disability. Find out more about claiming VAT relief via our factsheet [www.lothiancil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Factsheet-VAT-relief1.doc](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Factsheet-VAT-relief1.doc)
* If you need a start sourcing equipment or aids you can request our Independent Living Aid Suppliers publication**\***
* You can also request our guide to grants and trusts available to people living in Edinburgh**\***

These can be requested via our helpline on 0131 475 2370 (Mon-Thu, 10am-4pm) or by emailing [grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk)

For more information about information included in this factsheet or to speak to someone about your own circumstances please contact the Grapevine service.

**Grapevine Contact details:** Tel: 0131 475 2370 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email: [grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk](mailto:grapevine@lothiancil.org.uk) Website [www.lothiancil.org.uk](http://www.lothiancil.org.uk)

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