

# East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/543248

**1. Do you charge for community equipment over £1000? If so what impact has it had?**

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership does not charge if it is core equipment that is available through the community equipment store catalogue. This equipment is provided on loan and when no longer required is returned to store for cleaning and can be recycled through our community equipment store.

The roles and responsibilities for funding of the wider range of community equipment is dependent on equipment type and housing tenure. For example, larger maintainable equipment such as a curved stairlift that cannot be recycled is funded through a home improvement grant for home owners. A grant of 100% of the eligible costs will be available to the home owner if they or a member of their household (spouse, civil partner or dependant), is in receipt of one of these qualifying benefits:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Guaranteed Pension Credit
- Income Based Employment and Support Allowance

A grant of 80% of the eligible costs will be available in other circumstances.

The client will be required to pay the balance between the grant award and cost of the work.

**2. Have you put a cap on the LA contribution towards community equipment? If so what impact has it had?**

East Lothian Health and Social Care Partnership are partners in the City of Edinburgh community equipment store which has an annual budget which is reviewed. All equipment provided through this store is through a contracted supplier. In addition partners gain the benefit of recycled equipment which is charged at a lower cost dependent on the age and usage the equipment has had.

As with all local authorities this area of provision places challenges on budgets to deliver the high care needs and relevant equipment services required to support people and their carers to live safely in their community. We have made changes to equipment available on our core equipment list to achieve efficiencies such as removing small low cost dressing equipment and continue to review this service area of provision.

It may help to explain that Freedom of Information legislation only applies to information which is held or recorded by a public authority. It does not apply to views, opinions, intentions or questions which simply require a yes/no answer. In view of this, some of the questions asked are not technically valid for the purposes of this legislation as they are not requests for specific recorded information that we may or may not hold.

In order to assist you, however, colleagues have addressed the questions posed to the best of their knowledge. For future reference, a link to the "Tips for Requesters" page of the Scottish Information Commissioner's website has been provided which you may find useful:

<http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/YourRights/Tipsforrequesters.aspx>