

East Cambs. Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency

Our services

Care and Repair Services assist elderly, disabled and vulnerable people in East Cambridgeshire to organise building related works to their homes that will allow them to remain living independently, safely and comfortably.

A level access shower provided through a Disabled Facilities Grant. Other examples of major adaptations funded through DFGs might include: stair lifts; ramps; slopes; extensions; kitchen adaptations; through floor lifts; ceiling track hoists; changing benches; specialist bath and wash/dry toilets.



Care and Repair specialise in organising adaptations to essential facilities, for example level access showers or extensions to provide sleeping, showering, bathing and toilet facilities. The staff work closely with the occupational therapists, draw plans, arrange planning applications, obtain contractors' quotations and inspect the building work.

Our caseworkers carry out home visits and provide free confidential advice on repairs, adaptations and improvements.

Disabled Facilities Grants – means testing

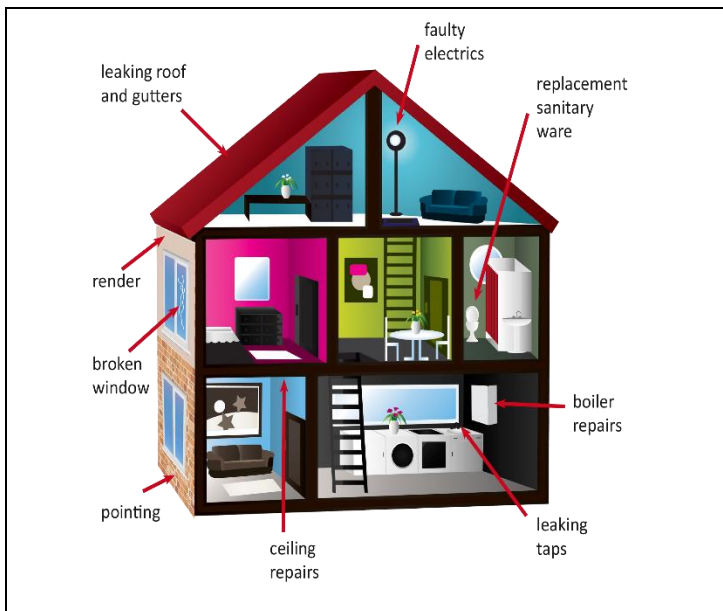
There is a test of resources for the DFG application for adults. This depends on their income savings, benefits received and living circumstances. When the caseworker first visits they will carry out a preliminary calculation to give an idea about any contribution towards the cost of the works.

Disabled Facilities Grants applied for on behalf of children are not means tested.

Discretionary Minor Repair Grants

Caseworkers can also advise on eligibility for Discretionary Minor Repair Grants which are currently up to £3,000 with clients being able to top up if needed up to an additional £500. Please note the total cost of the grant cannot exceed £3,500.

Our fees are 20% plus VAT and are included in the total cost of the grant.



Examples of what a Minor Repair Grant might cover:

A flexible approach...

- Even if we can't apply for a DFG or there is a large assessed contribution then we can provide support in applying for charitable funds.
- And/or Interest free loans to help cover the contribution (conditions apply).
- We also refer to organisations that provide energy efficiency grants for heating and insulation e.g. Staywell and Handy person service.
- Offer advice on benefit entitlement.
- Sign posting to other services in the East Cambridgeshire.

Who can contact us?

Individuals

Relations, carers or friends with permission

Housing Association or private tenants

Professionals such as Occupational Therapists, Social workers on behalf of their clients with their permission. **Essentially anyone!**

Anyone can apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant whether they own their own home, are living in social/private rent or with family.

Handy Person Service

East Cambs District Council are proud to support the Cambridgeshire Handyperson service.

The service is for anyone aged 65+ in Cambridgeshire and aims to prevent falls through free home safety check and arranging small jobs to be carried out. This first visit is free. Thereafter, a charge of £25 per hour plus the cost of any equipment applies.

- Installing key safes
- Grab rails (free of charge)
- Small repair jobs in the home.
- Free Home Energy Checks
- Anyone can refer just call **01480 700205**.

2017-2018

Last year (2017-2018) East Cambs Care & Repair awarded 38 Discretionary Minor Repair grants totalling £62K for roof repairs, wiring and windows.

Delivered 117 DFGs the majority being Level access showers, but also included extensions, ramps, stair lifts and kitchen adaptations, a total of £736k DFG funding spent. Whilst it is always difficult to accurately quantify the benefits of helping people to remain independent and at home, we know that we are an aging population in East Cambs. with rising care home costs and a limited number of supported housing options for older people. We also recognise that most people want to stay put and often just need some relatively minor changes in their home in order to do so.

Through administering the DFG, Care and Repair will continue to work towards preventing falls, delaying care home admissions and enabling hospital discharge but most importantly give people more choice in how they live.

If you would like to speak to a member of the team for any further information please call:

01353 616950

Typical process for a person experiencing difficulties accessing their bathroom

Person Contacts
Cambridgeshire
Direct

Social Services
Contact Centre
0345 045 5202

Occupational therapist visits home to complete assessment and makes any necessary and appropriate recommendations assessed URGENT or ROUTINE.

Care & Repair help with financial means test, submitting application including plans, obtaining quotes and approvals and checks.

ECDC
approves grant
(normally 2-3
weeks)

Lowest quoting contractor carries out works.

DFG is paid on satisfactory completion.

