



Hertfordshire Equipment Service Consultation



	<p>Hertfordshire County Council currently provides equipment to children and young people with disabilities through Hertfordshire Equipment Services (HES).</p> <p>To get equipment from HES, a child or young person must be assessed by an Occupational Therapist.</p> <p>Occupational Therapists are qualified professionals who are trained to prescribe equipment.</p>
	<p>HES provides equipment like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Specialist chairsSpecialist bedsHoistsStanding Supports <p>HES do not provide wheelchairs.</p>
	<p>We want to introduce some changes to the service.</p> <p>This is because we think these changes will make access to the service fairer and help more people.</p>
	<p>The changes will not affect items funded under Continuing Health Care as they are funded by the NHS.</p>

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Planned change 1 :
Children's Services will give equipment to children and young people under the age of 18.

This would mean:

- When a young person turns 18, they will be supported by the council's Adult Care Services department.
- There is a separate equipment policy for people aged over 18.



Planned change 2:

When a child or young person needs equipment they can get one set of equipment to meet those needs at home and one set to meet those needs at school.



This would mean:

- A 'set' of equipment, is the equipment which an OT prescribes in order to meet a child or young person's needs. There might be more than one piece of equipment in one set.

This will reduce the number of children and young people who receive the same piece of equipment at multiple locations.



- If a child or young person had parents or guardians who lived at different addresses, then only the house in which they usually live would receive equipment.

- A child or young person could only receive one set of equipment to support their needs at school.



Planned Change 3:
That all equipment needs which require equipment worth more than £500 must be authorised to by a panel of specialists.



This would mean:

That all orders for expensive items of equipment will be reviewed so that we know they are needed to meet a child or young person's specific needs.

We think this will be fairer.

	<p>A decision will not be made until after we have heard what people think about our planned changes.</p>
	<p>Please let us know what you think about the planned changes by answering a questionnaire at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/equipmentconsultation</p> <p>Or emailing: ConsultationonEquipmentSupport@hertfordshire.gov.uk</p> <p>You can do this from 12th March to 1st June 2018.</p>