

## 1 Introduction

1.1 Stockport Homes Group is committed to ensuring that disabled customers and their families can continue to live independently, in comfort and safety.

1.2 This Policy describes the principles that apply to the removal, storage and recycling of major adaptations, including: stairlifts, vertical lifts, ceiling track hoists and semi-permanent ramps (equipment) installed in domestic properties across all tenures for the benefit of residents with disabilities.

## 2 Strategic Links

2.1 This Policy links to the following:

- Stockport Homes' mission of One Team, Transforming Lives
- Stockport Homes' ASPIRE value of "ambition and courage to challenge, translating this into commercial success and brilliant outcomes for customers"
- Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 (as amended)
- Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
- Equality Act 2010
- Care Act 2014
- Stockport Council Major Adaptations Policy
- Stockport Housing Partnership Agreement -Phase III
- Group Health and Safety Policy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Value for Money Strategy
- Adaptations for Tenants of Stockport Homes Policy.

## 3 Key Features of the Policy

3.1 Stockport Homes is responsible for:

- The delivery of major adaptations for disabled tenants living in Stockport Homes property
- Delivery of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) on behalf of Stockport Council (the Council)
- The management of the Home Improvement Agency (HIA), which supports disabled people living in Stockport, including those who wish to pay privately to adapt their properties.

3.2 In order to ensure that public funds are managed effectively and efficiently and to support principles of sustainability, equipment no longer required by the person for whom it was installed will be recycled for use by another customer whenever possible.

3.3 To be considered for recycling, equipment must be:

- Less than five years old
- Serviced and maintained throughout by either the installer, Stockport Homes, the Council or a partner Registered Provider
- Have a good service history.

3.4 Equipment taken back into store will be recycled, with the benefit of a 12-month warranty commencing on the date of re-installation.

3.5 No financial compensation will be given for equipment that is removed, however in exceptional cases there may be work carried out to “make good” for health and safety reasons.

3.6 Semi-permanent ramps will be recycled on a case-by-case basis depending on condition. This decision will be made by a HIA Building Surveyor.

3.7 The responsibility to maintain a semi-permanent ramp once it is out of warranty rests with the property owner.

### **Removal of Equipment to Store**

3.8 The decision to remove equipment from a Stockport Homes property will be made by the Stockport Homes Occupational Therapist. If the condition of the equipment prevents re-use, any associated costs will be paid for from the Void Clearance budget, otherwise the Adaptations budget will fund costs associated with removal to store.

3.9 Equipment will be removed from a property owned by a partner Registered Provider only if the offer to remove comes from the Registered Provider and it is still under warranty, or meets the requirements set out in point 3.3 or point 3.4.

3.10 Equipment in a private sector property will be removed if it is still under warranty or meets the requirements set out in point 3.3 or point 3.4.

### **The Re-use of Equipment held in Store**

3.11 DFG customers with an assessed contribution towards their grant and customers of the HIA who pay for the equipment themselves (“Able to Pay” customers) will be offered the option of purchasing a recycled or new piece of equipment. For lifts and hoists there is a choice of warranties:

- An extended warranty on a new product of up to 5 years
- A recycled product with a 12-month warranty
- A recycled product with an extended warranty of up to five years.

3.12 For all other customers, if there is a lift/hoist suitable for their needs in store it will be installed with the benefit of a 12-month warranty and thereafter serviced and maintained by the landlord or the Council.

## **4 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

4.1 This Policy positively supports people who share a protected characteristic and ensures efficient recycling of equipment wherever possible to allow customers to live more independently.

## **5 Ownership, Monitoring and Review**

5.1 The Policy is owned by the Operations Directorate and will be monitored by the Operations Management Team.

5.2 The Policy will be reviewed in line with the Operations Management Policy and Procedure Review Schedule.