

## Community Children's Occupational Therapy

### Patient information leaflet – Children's Occupational Therapy

### Home Environment Assessment

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#### **This service offers:**

Assessments and recommendations for home environments to ensure that children and young people under 18 can:

- Enter and exit their homes safely
- Maintain as much independence as possible at home, such as during bathing and toileting
- Receive safe care when others assist with personal care
- Ensure safety at home with minimal restrictions



## **What to expect from a referral to Occupational Therapy:**

- We will verify that we are the appropriate service for your child's needs
- Schedule a visit where an Occupational Therapist (OT) will discuss your challenges, and meet your child (your child should be present during the visit unless previously agreed, such as if they are already known to the Occupational Therapy service.
- Evaluate your home situation by examining different rooms and identifying potential risks for your child, or areas where they could gain independence with the right equipment or modifications.
- Suggest alternative uses for the property to accommodate your child's needs, like converting a spare room downstairs into a bedroom.
- Recommend if additional Occupational Therapy support could be beneficial, such as helping your child develop skills or providing interventions to assist you in fostering your child's independence.
- Determine if other services could assist with these matters.

## **What we cannot assist with:**

- Repairs to the house, including those related to adaptations recommended by an Occupational Therapist – please reach out to your housing provider. Specific contact numbers for repairs and maintenance on specialised items like telecare are included in our Occupational Therapy discharge report.
- Home safety concerns if commercially available safety solutions have not been tried first.
- Issues with damp or mold.
- Providing universally available products that can be sourced from retail outlets or online.
- Adding an extra bedroom due to overcrowding.



## Keeping in touch:

After the panel meeting, your Occupational Therapist will contact you to share the decisions made. Once the HIA has made its decision, the Occupational Therapist will inform you of the outcome.

After recommendations are sent to the HIA, we cannot control the timeline for the completion of work. Your case will be assigned to a HIA caseworker who will keep you updated on the progress. You may also communicate with a HIA surveyor.

Following the completion of the work, the HIA will reach out to evaluate the installation any technical concerns. We will follow up to review the modifications based on the Occupational Therapy assessed needs.

Once everything is in place you will be discharged from our services, assuming no further concerns arise. If new issues come up or you wish for your child to be seen again, a new referral will be necessary.

## What to do if you disagree with the decision made:

The first step is to discuss your concerns with the Clinical Manager – Occupational Therapy – Emma Hill. Telephone Number: 01432 372995.

## Your experience matters

We aim to provide the care that we would want for ourselves, our families and friends. If you think something could have been done differently, please speak to the department or ward staff. You can contact them by calling the hospital switchboard and asking for the relevant department. Further information about our services is available on our website:

- **Phone (hospital switchboard):** 01432 355444
- [Wye Valley NHS Trust](#)

This leaflet is available in alternative formats. If you need this please contact the Patient Experience Team using the telephone number or email below.

After using our services we may ask for your opinion about your experience. Your feedback helps us to make things better for all our patients. You can also contact the Patient Experience Team by:

- **Phone:** 01432 372986 (please leave an answerphone message)
- **Email:** [PALS@wvt.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS@wvt.nhs.uk)

