

Using DFG for Assistive Technology solutions

Anita Mottram

Principal Occupational Therapist

Kirklees Council

June 2022



Assistive Technology Definition

“Assistive devices and technologies are those whose primary purpose is to maintain or improve an individual’s functioning and independence to facilitate participation and to enhance overall well-being. They can also help prevent impairments and secondary health conditions.”

(WHO 2018, World Report on Disability).



Potential solutions

They may be physical products such as wheelchairs, spectacles, hearing aids, prostheses, orthoses, walking devices or continence pads; or they may be digital and come in the form of software and apps that support communication, time management, monitoring, etc. **They may also be adaptations to the physical environment.**

- Page xi, Global Report on Assistive Technology, World Health Organisation and Unicef 2022



What is Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology includes:

- mainstream labour saving devices
- activities of daily living equipment
- moving and handling equipment
- adaptations to the property
- technological solutions
- digital options
- virtual reality devices



Type of Assistive Technology





Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Department
of Health &
Social Care



**Disabled Facilities
Grant (DFG) delivery:**

**Guidance for
Local Authorities
in England**



Chapter 7: The Disabled Facilities Grant and assistive technology

DFG Delivery: Guidance for Local Authorities in England, 2022

Chapter 7: The Disabled Facilities Grant and Smart Home Devices



DFG purposes

- making it easier to get into and out of the dwelling
- ensuring the safety of the disabled person and other occupants
- making access easier to the living room
- providing or improving access to the bedroom, toilet, washbasin and bath (and/or shower) facilities
- facilitating meal preparation
- adapting heating or lighting controls to make them easier to use
- improving access and movement around the home to enable the disabled person to care for another person who lives in the property
- facilitating access to and from a garden, or making a garden safe



Outcomes

- Early intervention and prevention
- Emphasis on enabling and empowering people – develop their skills
- Start them young
- Promote managed risk/assure carers
- Increase their control and resilience
- Prevent, reduce, delay
- Default option – home first/AT first



Any questions???

