

**WHEELCHAIR SERVICES
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
AND
CATEGORISATION SCHEDULE**

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GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

GENERAL

North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and North East Lincolnshire Care Trust provide wheelchairs for people with a long term physical disability that affects their mobility, including services for children.

1. Wheelchairs will be supplied to clients on a loan basis where the following criteria are met:
 - a. The client is registered with a General Practitioner in North Lincolnshire/North East Lincolnshire.
 - b. Each person has been assessed by their Doctor or an accredited professional as having a long-term mobility need, (i.e. more than 6 months except for the terminally ill).
 - c. The client will be able to derive significant improvement in mobility through the use of a wheelchair.
 - d. Clients must be within the weight limit stated in the manufacturer's details for a specified chair.
 - e. Assessments will take into account the rehabilitation process.
 - f. Normally only one wheelchair will be provided for use in all environments.

Wheelchairs will not be provided for those people who are independently mobile around their home environment but who use a wheelchair outdoors for occasional/social use.

2. Wheelchairs can be obtained in one of three ways:
 - a. On loan from, and fully maintained and repaired by the Wheelchair Service.
 - b. By using the Partnership Voucher Scheme, where the wheelchair is still owned, maintained and repaired by the Wheelchair Service.
 - c. By using the Independent Voucher scheme where the wheelchair is owned by the client, and its maintenance and repair, is their sole responsibility.

Note: Voucher scheme details are available from the Occupational Therapy Service, Scunthorpe/Wheelchair Service Grimsby.

EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES PROVIDED

1. In addition to the general eligibility criteria detailed above, clients should be aware of the specific criteria, which may apply to the following wheelchairs and associated equipment:
 - a. Manual wheelchairs.
 - b. Lightweight wheelchairs.
 - c. Electrically powered indoor wheelchairs (EPIC – Voucher Scheme not available).
 - d. Electrically powered indoor/outdoor wheelchairs (EPIOC).
 - e. Electrically powered attendant operated outdoor chairs/Power Packs.
 - f. Buggies.
 - g. Postural seating (including tilt-in-space wheelchairs).
 - h. Cushions.
 - i. Accessories.

Note: The Wheelchair Service does not supply three and four wheeled scooters.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE WHEELCHAIR SERVICE GENERAL CONDITIONS OF SUPPLY

The wheelchair is provided on long term loan. Normally only one wheelchair will be issued at any time, except in special circumstances. The wheelchair, if maintained to a high standard and used reasonably, should provide you with a means of mobility for at least five years. If the equipment is replaced or exchanged, previous items will be collected. The Wheelchair Service is responsible for maintenance and repairs, and a temporary replacement will be issued if it is necessary to remove the wheelchair for repair.

The client should return any unused, unsuitable or unserviceable seating before another one can be issued.

It is the service user's responsibility to protect the wheelchair from damage, loss or theft and to notify us of such. The wheelchair must be kept in good order and cleaned regularly. The service user may be liable for any replacement/repair costs if the damage is not as a result of reasonable wear and tear. The Wheelchair Service advises that the wheelchair is insured against damage, loss, fire and theft. There is a weight limit for each wheelchair, which has to be adhered to for clients' safety. The wheelchair is only to be used by the named service user, for the purpose it is intended and in an appropriate environment.
No alterations are to be made or attachments fitted without prior permission.

Service users (or their representative) must notify us of any changes in personal or medical details/circumstances e.g. weight gain or loss, change of address. When the wheelchair is no longer required the service user or their representative must notify us so we can arrange collection. Powered wheelchair users must notify us of the prescription of any medication which will affect their ability to drive.

We recommend that if wheelchair users are admitted to hospital or become resident in a Nursing/Residential Home that they:

1. Specify the wheelchair and associated accessories as their property.
2. Label with their name for easy identification.
3. Request that it is listed in the patient property records.

(Failure to do this may result in ***the service user being charged for any damage or loss that may occur***).

If the wheelchair user becomes permanently resident in a residential/nursing home we request that push type chairs are returned.

North Lincolnshire/North East Lincolnshire Wheelchair Services advise that, when possible, the wheelchair user transfers to a static car seat for transportation. Information on transportability of wheelchairs and users is given in the handbook issued with the wheelchair, please refer to this.

NB. Many wheelchair/buggy manufacturers state that their equipment is not suitable to be sat in whilst being transported.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST, NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE CARE TRUST PLUS AND NORTHERN LINCOLNSHIRE & GOOLE HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY LIABILITY IF THESE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONDITIONS ARE NOT COMPLIED WITH AND, USE IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WILL BE DEEMED TO BE AT THE INDIVIDUAL USERS OWN RISK

Failure to comply with any of these Terms and Conditions may result in the removal of your wheelchair.

STANDARD MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS

A standard manual wheelchair may be supplied to people who have a permanent impairment or medical condition, which lasts more than six months and seriously impairs their physical ability to walk indoors, or for those who are terminally ill. The Wheelchair Service will assess the needs of each individual referral.

1. There two types of standard chairs that the service is able to supply:
 - a. Self-propelled – large rear wheels.
 - b. Attendant pushed (transit) – small rear wheels.

Attendant push wheelchairs are designed to aid mobility and are not suitable for long periods of static seating. All requests for this type of wheelchair will be assessed by the Wheelchair Service to meet an individuals needs.

Note: Both chairs have a canvas seat and back and fold to go into a car.

2. Attendant push wheelchairs will be issued to clients as a backup to an EPIC issue.
3. Attendant push wheelchairs may be issued following assessment for special seating and/or inserts.

Provision of chairs in residential and nursing homes:

4. The service will provide a standard manual self-propelling wheelchair to residents in nursing and residential homes if they fulfil the above criteria and can demonstrate that it will enable them to be independently mobile.
5. The service will supply transit wheelchairs *only* to clients who live at home and have a significant indoor and outdoor mobility need and a carer to assist propulsion.
6. The service does not supply standard transit wheelchairs for residents in nursing or residential homes.
7. Standard transit chairs are to be returned when a client is admitted to a residential or nursing home.

CONFIGURABLE MANUAL WHEELCHAIRS

Configurable manual wheelchairs will be considered on an individual basis for clients who are full time users and whose lifestyle would indicate real benefit. Assessment by the Wheelchair Service will be necessary and supply would be made from a specific range to fulfil the users clinical and lifestyle needs.

Criteria for provision:

1. When a wheelchair is required for full time use or the wheelchair user has a recognised deteriorating medical condition, which may lead them to becoming a full time user.
2. When the full time user is unable to maintain independent mobility in a standard wheelchair and can demonstrate an increase in their level of independence through this provision.
3. When the full time user will not be adversely affected medically by self- propelling a lightweight wheelchair.
4. The wheelchair user must be able to demonstrate an awareness of the safe management of the chair and be able to carry it out.

LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS

1. General eligibility criteria must be met
2. Provision of a light weight wheelchair will be considered if the wheelchair user cannot maintain independent mobility in a standard wheelchair and can demonstrate an increase in their level of independence through this provision.
3. Provision will be considered where there is a single, named carer who, as the result of a medical condition, cannot handle a standard chair.

Note: An upgrade to a lightweight wheelchair above the prescribed need is possible by using the Voucher Scheme.

ELECTRICALLY POWERED INDOOR CHAIR (EPIC)

An EPIC will be considered where a client has a long term need for powered mobility, using the chair on a daily basis in order to increase mobility and independence around their immediate home environment, leading to an improved quality of life.

1. The client is unable to walk and unable to self propel a manual wheelchair effectively in their home environment.
2. The client must demonstrate their potential ability to use an EPIC safely and independently within their property, (based on an agreed assessment procedure).
3. The client must have a suitable home environment:
 - a. Have adequate space for the movement of the wheelchair including footplates within their home.
 - b. Have a suitable space, with a power supply for charging the batteries overnight.
4. The client must be able to charge the EPIC batteries as recommended, or have support to do so.

The Wheelchair Service will not supply an indoor powered wheelchair if the sole or primary need is for use within a school/college or day centre. Any referrals should be forwarded to education or an appropriate charity.

5. The chair will remain on loan, subject to regular review, on the understanding that the client continues to meet the above criteria. If the client subsequently fails to meet any one of these criteria, the wheelchair will be withdrawn.
6. On provision of a powered chair a standard wheelchair will be provided as a back up.

ELECTRICALLY POWERED INDOOR/OUTDOOR CHAIR (EPIOC)

To be considered for an EPIOC the client must initially meet the EPIC criteria (see above) and, on proceeding to an EPIOC the client will derive significant benefit from independent use of a powered chair within both their indoor and outdoor environments.

The Client must:

1. Be unable to walk and unable to propel a manual wheelchair indoors and outdoors.
2. Have a permanent need for an indoor/outdoor powered wheelchair.
3. Through frequent and regular use have the potential to benefit from the chair, gaining increased mobility and independence to improved quality of life.
4. Be medically fit to independently control a powered wheelchair indoors and outdoors:
 - a. Free from conditions causing loss of consciousness and epileptic seizures in waking hours within the past year in line with DVLA requirements for motor vehicle drivers.
 - b. Have a visual acuity of at least 6/9 (can read a number plate at 20 metres).
 - c. Free from any combination of medical conditions and treatments likely to make independent powered wheelchair control unsafe for themselves, pedestrians or other road users.
 - d. The assessors may, with the consent of the user, seek further medical advice about individual users from their GP or consultant.
5. Have demonstrated in a driving test and by other means that they have the insight, perceptual, visual and cognitive skills and dexterity to operate an indoor/outdoor powered wheelchair safely and responsibly on their own and without assistance. Users should also demonstrate the capacity to compensate for their sensory or physical impairment.
6. Take out a minimum of a third party liability insurance annually.
7. Have a suitable environment:
 - a. Have adequate space for movement of wheelchair including footplates within the home.
 - b. Have a suitable area for storage of the wheelchair with a power supply for charging the batteries.
 - c. Have suitable egress and access to their property.
 - d. Have a local outside environment that is suitable for a powered wheelchair.
8. The chair will remain on loan, subject to regular review, on the understanding that the client continues to meet the above criteria. If the client subsequently fails to meet any one of these criteria, the wheelchair may be withdrawn.

ELECTRIC POWERED ATTENDANT OPERATED OUTDOOR WHEELCHAIR (EPOC)

An electric powered attendant operated outdoor chair (EPOC) is only supplied to full-time users requiring daily outdoor mobility, but who are unable to propel a manual wheelchair outdoors and, whose regular carer is no longer able to push a wheelchair because:

- The carer has a serious medical condition which will make it detrimental to their health to push a manual wheelchair (written confirmation is required by their GP or consultant) but who have no visual, cognitive or spatial problems which would make driving a wheelchair a danger to themselves, the user, pedestrians or road users.
- The weight of the user is excessive or there is significant size/weight disparity between the user and carer.
- The local outside environment makes the use of a standard manual wheelchair extremely difficult but it is accessible by an EPOC and compatible with its use.
- The user and carer must be able to benefit from the chair through increased mobility leading to improved quality of life.
- The carer must demonstrate that they are competent to operate an EPOC safely and pass an eyesight test (read a number plate at 40ft/ 12.2m).
- The user must be able to ensure that the EPOC will be maintained adequately either personally or by their carer and have a safe storage area with adequate/safe power supply for battery charging.
- Only 1 EPOC may be issued in addition to a standard non-powered wheelchair and/or Epic per individual.

Requests will be given priority if the user has no other form of transportation to access the local community i.e. own car or close family car.

Users in nursing/residential homes, hostels, or any other residential unit will not be eligible, as it is the unit's responsibility to provide the necessary/suitable portering equipment and/or staff capable of pushing a user.

PROVISION OF BUGGIES

A buggy may be supplied to a child who has a permanent impairment or medical condition which lasts more than six months and seriously impairs their physical ability to walk, or who is terminally ill.

Criteria for provision:

1. It meets the child's clinical need.
2. Buggies will only be provided for children less than 3 years of age if there is a specific need for postural support.
3. Double buggies will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

POSTURAL SEATING

The client should be eligible for a wheelchair for mobility purposes through the Wheelchair Service, and this should be the PRIMARY reason for referral.

1. The client should use their wheelchair daily for essential mobility and therefore, be able to benefit from the positioning/postural control that the special seating gives, in contrast to that provided by a standard wheelchair.
2. Where a client has a privately purchased wheelchair the service still has a responsibility to provide a seating system to meet the clinical need of the user providing the chair and seating are compatible and safe. Suitable interfaces will be provided:
 - a. The client must meet the criteria for a wheelchair as supplied by Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Wheelchair Services Department.
 - b. The client should be referred to the service for a full assessment. This assessment will include the privately purchased wheelchair to ensure that it meets the clinical needs of the user prior to special seating being approved. The chair and seating should be compatible.
 - c. The client is expected to maintain their wheelchair in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. The Wheelchair Service will maintain any seating and interface system they supply.
4. Tilt-in-space wheelchairs will be provided where there is a clinical need for variable positioning.
5. The Client must have a suitable home environment.

Note: Vouchers are not issued for seating systems.

A tilt-in-space wheelchair will be considered where the client is unable to maintain an upright posture with other forms of postural support and where a reclining wheelchair or fixed tilt will not facilitate function. The tilt-in-space wheelchair is required for full time mobility purposes to include a significant outdoor element.

Hospitals or Rehabilitation units are expected to supply their own tilt-in-space wheelchair to be used during rehabilitation.

Any environmental constraints will be considered when prescribing this type of wheelchair.

Criteria for provision of tilt-in-space wheelchairs:

1. The client is unable to change their position.
2. The client will spend more than 4 hours per day in the wheelchair.
3. The client has significant postural needs, which cannot be met in any other wheelchair.
4. The client will gain significant improvements in their posture and mobility from the provision of a tilt-in-space wheelchair.
5. The client has a suitable home environment

Note: Assessment for this type of wheelchair will only be considered when the rehabilitation process is complete.

In addition to the general criteria for tilt-in-space a powered tilt-in-space wheelchair will be considered under the following circumstances:

1. The client will be a full time wheelchair user.
2. The client is hoisted for transfers.
3. The client lives alone or whose carer has difficulties hoisting client.
4. The client is dependant on home carers and needs to be in the wheelchair between carer visits to carry out essential activities.
5. The client has an active lifestyle.
6. The client needs to spend long periods of time in wheelchair (all day).
7. The client has a significant need for postural control.
8. The client has a need for pressure relief.

SUPPLY OF CUSHIONS

Pressure relieving, standard comfort and back cushions are supplied in accordance with the assessment of clinical need. Assessment for pressure relieving cushions takes into consideration the overall management of a client's pressure relief and may be carried out in conjunction with nursing care. The client must meet the criteria for a wheelchair as supplied by Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Wheelchair Services Department:

1. Standard comfort cushions – provided with all chairs unless pressure relief is identified as a need.
2. Pressure relieving cushions – will be supplied to the client for use within the wheelchair where there is an identified risk.
 - a Pressure relieving cushions will only be supplied by the Wheelchair Service to people who are in hospital when they have been assessed by an accredited professional as needing both a wheelchair and pressure relieving cushion prior to discharge.
 - b Pressure relieving cushions are not generally supplied to residents of nursing homes. Provision of these cushions would be considered to be part of nursing care. A client would be eligible if they demonstrate independent mobility using a self-propelling or powered wheelchair for essential mobility reasons.
3. Positioning cushions for postural support (e.g. wedges, lumbar supports, crescents) will be supplied to users where there is an identified clinical need.

Note: Alternating air pressure cushions (dynamic pressure cushions) are not supplied by the Wheelchair Service, except in exceptional circumstances.

ACCESSORIES

Wheelchair accessories are supplied in accordance with the Wheelchair Service therapist's assessment of clinical need:

1. **TRAYS** – these will be supplied as part of the seating system for postural needs and to facilitate function.
2. **HEADRESTS** – will be supplied as part of a seating system for postural control.
3. **BEXHILL ARM SUPPORTS** – will be supplied where there is a postural need.
4. **ELEVATING LEG REST SUPPORTS (ELRS)** – will be supplied if there is a clinical need to keep elevated during mobilisation.
5. **HARNESSES** – will be supplied for clinical/postural need and not for transportation.
6. **LAP STRAPS** – are provided for safety in transit but not for transportation in a vehicle.
7. **POSITIONING BELTS** – will be supplied where there is a clinical/postural need.
8. **PADDED ARMREST COVERS** – will be supplied where there is a risk of pressure to elbows and/or to assist with positioning needs.
9. **FOOTBOARDS/CALF PADS** – will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need.

10. **ANKLE HUGGERS & FOOTSTRAPS** – will be supplied where there is a positioning and safe transit need and where a suitable pelvic positioning belt is fitted.

11. **RAIN COVERS/SUNSHADES** – these are not routinely supplied by the Wheelchair Service but may be considered for buggies under the following circumstances:

- A universal rain cover is not commercially available for the buggy and
- The child is under 5 years of age and is not eligible for benefits and
- The child has a medical condition that will be severely affected by exposure to wind and rain. A consultant's letter will be required.

Lap straps and harnesses are fitted and adjusted as per manufacturers guidelines and following instructions from the Wheelchair Service.

12. **POWERPACKS - Power Packs** are **not** supplied by the Wheelchair Services but may be fitted to a chair accessed via the independent voucher scheme

WHEELCHAIR CATEGORISATION GUIDELINES FOR PRIORITIES

Category	<u>Definition</u>
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terminal condition where mobility is permanently and severely restricted and chair is required for indoor use.• Patients awaiting discharge from an acute hospital where mobility is permanently and severely restricted.• Clients whose only form of mobility indoors would be a wheelchair and they have no access to a wheelchair at the present time.• Clients who need cushions for the treatment of pressure sores and who are in their chair all day.• To deal with issues which come within a Health and Safety remit, example, harnesses for postural support.
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progressive illness or detrimental to the condition of the client if equipment not provided.• Terminal conditions where wheelchair is for outdoor/occasional use only.• Provision of cushions for pressure relief and, for prevention purposes for people at risk of sores who are in their wheelchair for the majority of the day.
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical conditions where the equipment is used more than 4 times a week in the home and outdoors.• Provision of pressure relief in a wheelchair for people who use the equipment for under 2 hours a day.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

In order to assist with decision making about which clients to refer to the NHS Wheelchair Service the following guidance has been agreed:

- 1) Wheelchairs will not be provided to occasional users unless there are exceptional circumstances** (outlined in 'exceptions' below).

Definition of an occasional user:

People who are independently mobile around their home environment but who use a wheelchair outdoors for occasional/social use.

Exceptions:


- Progressive neurological disorders.
 - Terminally ill patients.
 - Access to school i.e. children of school age.
 - People with non-standard requirements which cannot be easily purchased on the high street i.e. bariatric patients.
- 2) The Wheelchair Service will issue a wheelchair to users who are resident within a Nursing Home or Care Home if this enables the user to achieve independence and they meet the criteria. Attendant pushed wheelchairs may be issued if the resident fulfils the basic criteria and a standard portering/pool wheelchair is unsuitable**

Please note:

- It is expected that the Care Home will provide their own pool of wheelchairs for general purposes, which includes transit within the home and for day trips.
- Chairs will not be issued:
 1. As a substitute for the provision of an armchair
 2. As a means of controlling behaviour
 3. As a 'portering' wheelchair.

Appendix 2

Occasional User Discharge Letter

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

North East Lincolnshire 
Care Trust Plus

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)
Athena Building
5 Saxon Court
Gilbey Road
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN31 2UJ

Our Ref: NELCTP/NLAG/WCDISCHARGE

October 2011

Subject: North East Lincolnshire Community Wheelchair Service

Over the past 18 months the Care Trust Plus (CTP) and Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital (DPOW) have been working together to review the local Hospital Based wheelchair service following concerns about the length of time people were having to wait to access the service. A review of the service highlighted that North East Lincolnshire was one of the few areas still offering access to wheelchairs for people assessed as being an Occasional User (people requiring a wheelchair for outdoor mobility only).

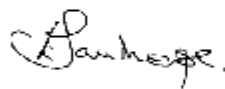
Following consultation with patients and members of the public it was agreed that we would develop a local, community service to cater for these patients. The CTP and Hospital have worked closely with two voluntary organisations, the British Red Cross and Contract Lincs Community Involvement Group, to create *North East Lincolnshire Community Wheelchair Service*.

The aim of the service is to provide the opportunity to hire (by a small donation) a wheelchair for people identified as being occasional users. A leaflet containing more detail about the service and how to contact them is attached to this letter. Now that the service is up and running, the CTP and Hospital have agreed that all people currently on the hospital waiting list that have been identified as an occasional user will be re-directed to the community wheelchair service to access a wheelchair when required.

This letter is to inform you that as an occasional user, you will now need to contact the community wheelchair service to access a wheelchair as and when you require support for outdoor mobility. By introducing the service, the hospital will be able to reduce the waiting times for more complex patients to access their service, while ensuring occasional users have access to wheelchairs and support in the community.

If you have any questions or comments about North East Lincolnshire's Community Wheelchair Service, please feel free to contact the CTP's Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0300 3000500 or in writing to *Patient Advice and Liaison Service, Athena Building, 5 Saxon Way, Grimsby, N.E.Lincs, DN31 2UJ*.

Kind regards




Karen Fanthorpe
General Manager
Community & Therapy Services
Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Peter Melton
Shadow Accountable Officer
North East Lincolnshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Appendix 3

Letter to care homes

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

Confidential Note:

The information contained in this letter is strictly private and confidential to the person to whom it is addressed and must not be divulged without the consent of the writer.

Wheelchair Services Department
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital
Scartho Road
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN33 2BA

Tel: 01472 874111
www.nlg.nhs.uk

Direct Line (01472) 875323

«Todays_date»

«Recipient_title_and_surname»

«Recipient_organisation_name» «Recipient_address_building» «Recipient_address_road»

«Recipient_address_locality»

«Recipient_address_post_town»

«Recipient_post_code»

Dear «Recipient_title_and_surname»

Re: Change in eligibility criteria for wheelchair provision

Following a review of wheelchair service in North East Lincolnshire the decision has been made to implement new eligibility criteria for the assessment and provision of NHS wheelchairs.

Under the new criteria NHS wheelchairs will no longer be provided into care homes for the purpose of portering and general mobility.

Wheelchairs will continue to be provided for those residents who will gain independent mobility from provision of an NHS wheelchair.

If you have any queries regarding this change in criteria please contact the CTPs Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0300 3000500 or in writing to Patient Advice and Liaison Service, Athena Building, 5 Saxon Way, Grimsby, N.E.Lincs, DN31 2UJ.

Yours Sincerely

Name
Admin Officer

Appendix 4

Letter to service users

Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Confidential Note:

The information contained in this letter is strictly private and confidential to the person to whom it is addressed and must not be divulged without the consent of the writer.

**Wheelchair Services Department
Diana, Princess of Wales Hospital**

Scartho Road
Grimsby
North East Lincolnshire
DN33 2BA

Tel: 01472 874111

www.nlg.nhs.uk

Direct Line (01472) 875323

«Todays_date»

«Title» «Forename» «Surname»
«Patient_address_house» «Patient_address_road»
«Patient_address_locality»
«Patient_address_post_town»
«Patient_post_code»

Dear «Title» «Surname»

Re: Change in eligibility criteria for assessment and provision of wheelchairs

According to our records you have been issued with an NHS wheelchair to assist with outdoor mobility and therefore we would like to make you aware of a change in the eligibility criteria for people who require a wheelchair for outdoor mobility only.

A review of wheelchair services in North East Lincolnshire was carried out in 2011. As part of this review a new eligibility criteria for assessment and provision of wheelchairs was developed and approved.

The wheelchair service no longer provides wheelchairs for individuals who require a wheelchair for outdoor mobility only. Please be assured while you are in possession of your existing wheelchair the service will continue to maintain/repair your wheelchair. However, you will no longer be eligible for a replacement wheelchair if you do not meet the new eligibility criteria.

If you no longer use your wheelchair or wish to purchase your own wheelchair please contact the service to arrange collection.

Yours Sincerely

Name
Admin Officer

cc file

Appendix 5
DVLA requirements for driving

The law requires that a licence holder or applicant is considered as suffering a **prescribed disability** if unable to meet the eyesight requirements, i.e. to read in good light (with the aid of glasses or contact lenses if worn) a registration mark fixed to a motor vehicle and containing letters and figures 79 millimetres high and 50 millimetres wide (i.e. post 1.9.2001 font) at a distance of 20 metres, or at a distance of 20.5 metres where the characters are 79 millimetres high and 57 millimetres wide (i.e. pre 1.9.2001 font). If unable to meet this standard, the driver must not drive and the licence must be refused or revoked.

<p>Registration for sight impairment or severe sight impairment will normally be regarded as incompatible with holding a driving licence and should be notified. However, attention will be given to the standards indicated below in deciding on fitness to drive. VISUAL DISORDERS</p>	<p>GROUP 1 ENTITLEMENT ODL - CAR, M/CYCLE</p>	<p>GROUP 2 ENTITLEMENT VOC – LGV/PCV</p>
<p>ACUITY</p>	<p>Must be able to meet the above prescribed eyesight requirement.</p>	<p>New applicants are barred in law if the visual acuity, using corrective lenses if necessary, is worse than 6/9 in the better eye or 6/12 in the other eye. Also, the uncorrected acuity in each eye MUST be at least 3/60. * / *** Grandfather Rights below.</p>
<p>CATARACT Includes severe bilateral cataracts, failed bilateral cataract extractions and post cataract surgery where these are affecting the eyesight.</p>	<p>Must be able to meet the above eyesight requirement. In the presence of cataract, glare may prevent the ability to meet the number plate requirement, even with apparently appropriate acuities.</p>	<p>Must be able to meet the above prescribed acuity requirement. In the presence of cataract, glare may prevent the ability to meet the number plate requirement, even with appropriate acuities.</p>
<p>MONOCULAR VISION (includes the use of one eye only for driving)</p>	<p>Complete loss of vision in one eye (i.e. If there is any light perception, driver is not considered monocular). Must notify DVLA but may drive when clinically advised that driver has adapted to the disability and the prescribed eyesight standard in the remaining eye can be satisfied and there is a normal monocular visual field in the remaining eye, i.e. there is no area of defect which is caused by pathology.</p>	<p>Complete loss of vision in one eye or corrected acuity of less than 3/60 in one eye. Applicants are barred in law from holding a Group 2 licence. **/** Grandfather Rights below.</p>
<p>VISUAL FIELD DEFECTS Disorders such as severe bilateral glaucoma, severe bilateral retinopathy, retinitis pigmentosa and other disorders producing field defect including partial or complete homonymous hemianopia/quadrantanopia or complete bitemporal hemianopia.</p>	<p>Driving must cease unless confirmed able to meet recommended national guidelines for visual field. (See end of Chapter for full definition and for conditions to be met for consideration as an exceptional case on an individual basis)</p>	<p>Normal binocular field of vision is required, i.e., any area of defect in a single eye is totally compensated for by the field of the other eye.</p>