



Assistive Technology for adult social care

Technology to support you in
your everyday life



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

What do we mean by Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology is technology that supports people in their everyday lives.

This can include 'smart home' technology, mobile phones and more specialised equipment.

What Assistive Technology is available?

Technology is changing frequently – but below are just a few examples of the type of equipment we use.

Reminders

- A **calendar clock** with pictures and alarms designed to help you remember things. It can be programmed with personally recorded voice messages and pictures that will play at specific times of the day. (E.g. 3 times a day to remind about medication).
- A **movement sensor** device that plays a message when you walk past it. You can record your own message e.g. "take your keys with you and lock the door" or "make sure you have turned the cooker off". A similar device is available for when you stand up from a bed or chair to remind you to use a walking aid when you get up.
- **Voice assistants** such as Alexa or Google to remind you to do a task. Reminders can also be set on your mobile phone.



Calling for help in an emergency

- **Pendant Alarms:** A personal alarm that is worn around your neck or wrist that you can press when you need help. It will connect with either a pager carried by someone who lives with you, to a family or friend's mobile phone or to a call centre who will respond and find the help you need.
- **Environmental Sensors** such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms; heat alarms and flood detectors can be set up to link up to a call centre so that someone will know if you need help in the event of fire, gas leak or flood.



Knowing if someone is on the move

Your carers or family members may need reassurance that you are up and in your usual routine or if you need assistance.

- **Bed, chair and door sensors** can be linked to a pager to let your carer know if you are moving around or might need your help; or if you are going out of a front door for example.

These sensors can also be used linked to a 24-hour call centre. They can help to identify if you have had a fall (e.g. didn't return to bed after going to the toilet) or if you are going out at times that are unsafe.

Out and about

If you need to call for help when you are out and about – we have **GPS alarms** that can be used outside. They can tell your location and send a message to friends and family or to a 24-hour call centre.

Some of these can also be linked to a **falls detector** that can automatically trigger a call if you have a fall.

Nominated people can also look up where you are and, if appropriate, be notified when you leave a certain area. Certain **apps on smartphones** can work in a similar way.



How do I get Assistive Technology and what is the cost?

- Option 1:** Much of this equipment is widely available to buy privately. If you don't wish to have an assessment or are able to privately purchase the equipment, contact one of the organisations listed below to find out information and to purchase directly.
- Option 2:** If you already have a health or social care professional working with you they will be able to offer information and advice and will be able to access some equipment for you to try.
- Option 3:** Request an assessment from Social and Health Care Team on 0345 050 7666.

Cost

You are entitled to an assessment of your social care needs under the Care Act 2014. This is free of charge.

Some services set up by Adult Social Care to support you will require a financial assessment and a contribution depending on your situation. Most equipment is available on loan free of charge if you have a need but for some items there may be additional costs which will be discussed.



Additional resources

- Advice and information about where to purchase items from www.livingmadeeasy.org.uk or [ASKSARA \(http://asksara.livingmadeeasy.org.uk/\)](http://asksara.livingmadeeasy.org.uk/) for a virtual assessment.
- [Eldercare \(www.eldercare.co.uk\)](http://www.eldercare.co.uk) – Pendant alarm/Telecare service 0345 603 4576.
- [Which \(www.which.co.uk/late-life-care/home-care/technology-to-keep-you-safe\)](http://www.which.co.uk/late-life-care/home-care/technology-to-keep-you-safe) – Independent information and advice.
- [Alzheimer's Society Shop \(shop.alzheimers.org.uk/daily-living-aids\)](http://shop.alzheimers.org.uk/daily-living-aids) – call 0300 124 0900 for a brochure.
- [NRS \(www.nrshealthcare.co.uk\)](http://www.nrshealthcare.co.uk) – Equipment provider.
- [Jointly \(www.jointlyapp.com\)](http://www.jointlyapp.com) – A mobile phone app to support carers.
- [Assistive Technology at Oxfordshire County Council \(www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/assistivetechonology\)](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/assistivetechonology) – For further information.
- [Live Well Oxfordshire \(livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk) – A local directory of services available within Oxfordshire.

To request an assessment

Contact the **Social and Health Care Team** on **0345 050 7666**.

