

Expected Longevity of Equipment & Insurance

It is important to regularly maintain and repair your wheelchair. A typical adult wheelchair lasts 5 years. For children, changes are needed more often as they grow, typically every 2-3 years. This may also be the case with some medical conditions where wheelchair needs can change quickly.

Public Liability Insurance is strongly recommended if you are using your wheelchair in a public place particularly a powered wheelchair.

Joined up Planning

For those wheelchair users who receive help and care from other agencies in the NHS, Social Services, Education and Charities consideration may be given to how the wheelchair will positively affect the level of care and support you currently receive.

Contact Details:

Gloucestershire Wheelchair Assessment Service,
Independent Living Centre, Village Road, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire, GL51 0BY

Tel: 01242 713 900

wheelchair.service@glos-care.nhs.uk

Opening times:

Monday to Friday

8:30am to 4:30pm excluding Bank Holidays

Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB)

The Gloucestershire Wheelchair Assessment Service (GWAS) is now offering Personal Wheelchair Budgets (PWB). This is an individual resource available to help you meet your mobility and health and well being needs with the support of your wheelchair therapist.

You will have the option to add to your PWB for additional accessories or features, or a higher specification of wheelchair within the NHS range. You may wish to approach wider agencies and charities for funding.

You will also have the option to choose from a range of wheelchairs available via an Independent Provider.

There are three choices for using your PWB

1) Within the NHS (this is called a Notional PWB)

A notional wheelchair budget enables you to have a wheelchair from the NHS range through the wheelchair service. The value of the PWB is the cost to the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your identified needs.

2) Notional with contribution for additional features

This option allows you or another agency such as a voluntary/charitable organisation to contribute to your PWB to add extra features to your wheelchair. For example, this could be a seat riser on a powered wheelchair or patterned spoke guards on a manual chair. The NHS wheelchair therapist will be able to advise and support your choice of additional features. The value of the PWB is still the cost to the NHS to provide a wheelchair to meet your identified needs.

By choosing additional features you or the supporting organisation will be contributing to the overall cost of the wheelchair solution. This will include VAT at 20% for the additional features which may be reclaimable. For more information on VAT please visit **<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rates-of-vat-on-different-goods-and-services>**.

With both notional options the chair you chose remains NHS property and includes free NHS repair and maintenance but may not include all additional features if option 2 is chosen.

3) Outside NHS provision (this is called a Third Party PWB)

In discussion with your NHS wheelchair therapist, if it is clinically appropriate, you can choose to use your PWB to contribute to buying a wheelchair from an Independent Provider outside of the NHS. Your choice will need to be agreed as clinically appropriate by your NHS wheelchair therapist. You can only use your PWB for the same category of chair. For example, a PWB for a manual wheelchair must only be used for purchase of a manual wheelchair.

The Wheelchair therapist will be able to advise you if you choose this option, but will not accompany you to the assessment by alternative providers.

Your 3rd party PWB includes an allowance for Repairs & Maintenance as you will not have access to the NHS approved repair service. This will be your responsibility to arrange repairs.

A Personal Wheelchair Support Plan

Before your wheelchair assessment you will be asked to think about the things that are important to you to by completing the personal wheelchair support plan which will help you and the therapist to find the most appropriate wheelchair/ seating

... "The Scheme has enabled me to have a seat riser and I can now reach the cash machine without help"...