

Act to Adapt: A draft motion for councillors

Below is a draft motion for councillors to use when raising the Motor Neurone Disease Association's [Act to Adapt campaign](#) in relevant council forums.

The final paragraph should be adjusted to reflect the current situation in a local area. For example, if a council already has a fast-track process for people with MND, this part of the question should be removed.

“Motor neurone disease (MND) is a rapidly progressing condition – a third of people die within a year of diagnosis and half within two years. During that time, symptoms worsen and needs increase, often at an unpredictable rate.

To live in a dignified and reasonable way, a person with MND must make urgent adjustments to their home. These adjustments are often significant in scale. Such adaptations include increasing the size of doorways, building ramps and wet rooms, and installing hoists and through-floor lifts.

It is vital to ensure people living with a progressive and terminal condition like MND can live in safe and accessible homes. This will help them realise their right to independence and quality of life in the short time they have left to live.

It is our council's role to ensure that local people with MND are well supported to access home adaptations or move to an accessible home in a timely manner.

The current system lets people down as it is too slow in establishing need and appropriate remedies, too inefficient in allocating resources, and too piecemeal in delivering care. People with MND cannot afford to wait unendingly for local authority decisions on their fate. Each day is critical.

The costs for such adaptations, where local authority help is not forthcoming, can force people with MND and their loved ones into precarious financial circumstances. Adaptations for an individual and their family often prove to be unreasonably expensive.

Speeding up applications for funding and the installation of home adaptations they need can be hugely beneficial for people with MND. It can enable them to live at home for longer, maintain their health and wellbeing for as long as possible, and remain engaged with their communities, families and friends.

This council also recognises that early interventions will save taxpayer money, as large caseloads and later, more critical, interventions lead to excessive costs.

The MND Association has proposed a set of recommendations and highlighted examples of good practice in their Act to Adapt report that would not only help people with MND, but also many other people who need accessible housing. These recommendations are based on the Association's research and what people with MND, professionals and other experts have said.

Will this council commit to introducing a fast-track process for delivering home adaptations for people with progressive and terminal conditions such as MND? And will this council also commit to waiving the financial assessment for people with progressive and terminal conditions such as MND for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) up to £5,000 to ensure adaptations can happen in a timely, efficient manner with minimum impact on the people they are supposed to help?”