

Unlock The Door

Fast-tracking accessible housing for people with Motor Neurone Disease

Draft motion for councils

Motor neurone disease (MND) is a rapidly progressing condition – a third of people die within a year of diagnosis and half within two years. As the disease progresses, symptoms worsen and needs increase, often unpredictably. People living with progressive or terminal conditions like MND deserve to live in safe, accessible homes. They have the right to independence and quality of life in the time they have left.

It is our council's role to ensure that local people living with MND are supported to access the home adaptations they need in a timely manner. The current system is too slow to respond to the rapidly changing needs of people with MND. Without timely support, people face becoming trapped in unsuitable and unsafe homes. This risks significant negative impacts on their health and well-being, including increased risk of avoidable hospital admissions and early entry into care.

The MND Association has proposed a set of recommendations and highlighted examples of good practice in their recent report, 'A Lifeline Not a Luxury'.

One such recommendation is to speed up applications for the funding and installation of home adaptations. This would be hugely beneficial for people living with MND, who could live safely at home for longer, maintain their health and wellbeing for as long as possible, and remain engaged with their communities, family and friends. People living with MND do not have time to wait – every day is critical.

Continued overleaf



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Draft motion for councils contd.

This council recognises that people with progressive conditions should be able to apply for adaptations as early as possible following diagnosis, so that their future needs can be anticipated rather than responded to in crisis. This council also recognises that early interventions can save taxpayer money by enabling people to manage their condition more effectively and reducing the need for critical interventions at a later stage.

This council therefore commits to introducing a fast-track process for delivering home adaptations for people with progressive or terminal conditions such as MND, ensuring target timeframes of 55 days for simple adaptations and 130 days for complex adaptations are adhered to. These timelines are based on the national guidance set out by Foundations on Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) delivery standards.

With that in mind, the council recognises that 55 days (almost two months) should be seen as a maximum, and that this timeframe is not appropriate for smaller adaptations such as ramps or stairlifts. The goal is to ensure these smaller adaptations are completed much faster.

Together, we'll ensure dignity for people living with MND.