

What happens if your child's needs change?

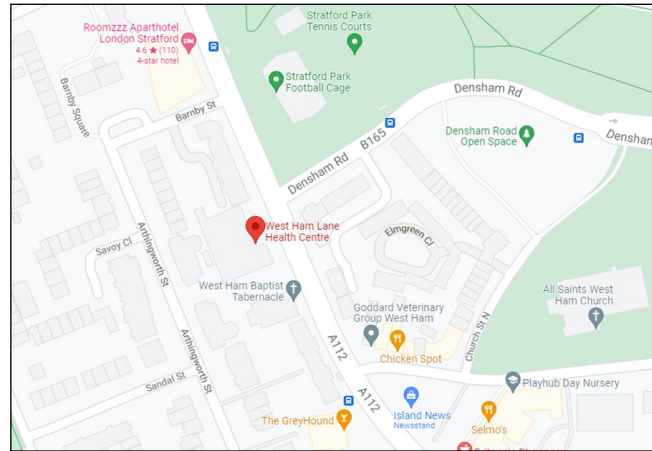
Children will change. They will have growth spurts, change how they sit, stand and walk. There may be times when they are poorly or need more support. You may notice that the equipment looks different, it may seem like it no longer fits. If this happens, your child may require a review from your Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. Here are some things that you may notice that may mean you need to contact us:

When sitting: your child's knees are higher than their hips or the seat. This may mean the seat height needs to be altered

- Shoulders appear higher than the back of the chair
- Knees are no longer fitting in the knee blocks

When using their walker: raised shoulders

- Increase of knee bending or hunching over
- Dragging of feet and increase in effort used to walk
- Whilst standing, your child may slump forwards or to the side or keep the knees bent
- The knee blocks or hip guards are no longer at the correct height
- Your child may lift their walker or struggle with steering where they were previously confident.



How to contact us

Specialist Children & Young People's Services are based at:

West Ham Lane Health Centre

84 West Ham Lane
Stratford
London, E15 4PT

Occupational Therapy

020 8586 6480

Physiotherapy

020 8586 6380



You and Your Child's Equipment

A Guide for Parents



Your child may have been issued with equipment from either the Children's Occupational Therapy Service or the Children's Physiotherapy Service. Usually your Physiotherapist will provide you with a standing or walking aid, while the Occupational therapist will provide you with a static chair. Once equipment has been given to you, it remains your responsibility. It is important for you to maintain this equipment so that it remains in good working order, and continues to be safe for your child to use. Here are some useful things that you should be doing to maintain your child's equipment:

- **Keep the equipment clean.** As your child is using the equipment on a daily basis, it will undoubtedly get dirty from food and messy play items. Keep this clean by regularly wiping the equipment with soap and water. There are some covers that can be removed and washed either by hand or in the washing machine.
- **Keep your equipment indoors.** The equipment that has been given to you should never be stored outside, this can affect the workings of the chair and can often mean that it is no longer safe for your child to use.
- **Use your equipment only for what it is intended.** Static seating and most standing frames are for indoor use only.

Enabled Living Healthcare

These are our partners and are responsible for delivering, collecting and storing all of our equipment in Newham.

Contact details: 0203 373 2222

Newham Wheelchair Services

Based at chargeable Lane E16. They are responsible for your child's specialist buggy/wheelchair.

Contact details: 020 3373 1354

www.enabledlivinghealthcare.co.uk

Other housing equipment?

If your child requires home adaptations or other equipment such as hoists, bathroom equipment or slings; a referral to Newham Social Services needs to be made. You can either go through your GP to help you or you can contact them on the following number: **020 8430 2000 (option 2)**.

If your equipment breaks?

- Stop using any equipment if you notice that this is broken
- Contact the relevant service (Physio or OT) the next available working day
- It is your responsibility to keep your equipment clean and in good working order both for hygiene and infection control purposes
- If there are recurrent breakages of equipment this will need to be reviewed and suitability of the equipment will be assessed.

What will happen once your child or young person has been discharged from children's and young people services?

If the decision is made to withdraw the equipment it will be collected by Enabled Living Healthcare. If your equipment is too small and your child has now outgrown their equipment, or if you require any other equipment that is not listed in this leaflet, please contact Newham Social Services on: **020 8430 2000 (option 2)**.

The same rules apply if you choose to have your equipment transferred to a post-18 education setting. Alternatively, you can ask your GP to help you.

What happens if I move out of Newham?

Your child may have been provided with various equipment from our service that he or she used at home and/or at their school.

If you have a static chair: you may take the chair with you. Please note that we will no longer be responsible for your child's chair and you will need to get in touch with local services so that they can review your child's postural needs. Any equipment in a Newham school will remain our responsibility. The same rule applies to your child's walking aid.

Please note that you need to return any home standing frame as they may not travel out of borough and remain the property The East London Foundation Trust. Your new health authority will provide you with the assessment of a new standing frame if still required.