

Mobility aids service



What the mobility aids service can offer

As the largest national service provider of short-term wheelchairs in the UK, we deliver mobility aids services in dedicated locations of need or as a pop up / home delivery service. We support individuals in local areas, giving access to wheelchairs on a short-term basis during illness, injury, or the worsening of a long-term medical condition.

- The service will be delivered by dedicated staff and/or volunteers.
- Individuals will be able to collect a pre-booked wheelchair, turn up on the day, or organise a delivery service to their home.
- We measure the impact of the service, providing you with statistical reports on the services' performance against projected targets.
- We also obtain feedback from service users who have loaned our mobility aids to continuously improve our service.

We would be happy to explore how the service could be provided in partnership with you in your area. We work with NHS commissioners across the UK to support their service users.



We believe everyone who needs a wheelchair should be able to get one quickly and easily, that is right for them and for as long as they need it.

British Red Cross humanitarian vision

Providing for the unmet national needs of short-term mobility aids

The impact of having a wheelchair versus going without

Life with a wheelchair

The benefits of short-term use of a wheelchair were widely felt.



People felt that it **improved their quality of life**

72%

The majority of individuals saw the value of a wheelchair in **preventing further injury**

49%

Almost half said that using a wheelchair **hastened their recovery time**

Life without a wheelchair

For those who were not provided with a wheelchair, but experienced a mobility need.

65%

The majority felt a significant **negative impact on their quality of life**

4.3 million people

The estimated unmet national need **each year who require support**



What the mobility aids service team can do to support individuals

By meeting the need for short-term wheelchair loans, the Red Cross enables people with mobility issues to:

- Be discharged from hospital
- Maintain their independence at home
- Attend hospital appointments, school, or work
- Maintain their dignity at the end of life
- Participate in family and social activities from which they would otherwise be excluded

For more info email: bpdm-mas@redcross.org.uk



Individual and Public Impact

A wheelchair allows individuals to retain a sense of independence and reduces social isolation by retaining social connectedness. These benefits have a positive impact on health through an increased sense of wellbeing and a renewed positivity.

Economic impact and preventative value

Economic evaluation conducted by analysing a variety of cases revealed overall health and social care savings ranging from £469 to £4,607 across the cases, with an average **saving of £1,676**.

As such, the findings clearly quantify the preventative value of short term wheelchair loans with cost savings evidenced across both health and social care.

"I know I need to keep working on my physio and getting the wheelchair ironically means I'm able to move more... getting out the house for my mental health and my physical health has been amazing. I'm loving it and now I'm so happy."

- Terri

"Lack of mobility aid access would impact most on primary care services. If patients are not able to get out, then we are having to visit at home... which is much more timing consuming and much more expensive for the NHS."

- GP

As the largest national provider of short-term wheelchairs in the UK, we are committed to ensuring that everyone in need of a temporary wheelchair has adequate access to one.

