

Maurice is on top of the world

Swanley resident Maurice White's life has been 'transformed' after the Council provided a grant to install a stairlift in his home.

The 80 year old has lived nearly all his life in the town after he and his family moved from the Old Kent Road at the outbreak of the Second World War.

Following complications from a hip replacement operation some 18 months ago, the former builder was forced to have his left hip removed. This left him with severe mobility problems forcing him to get about on crutches.

"After my left hip was taken away the biggest problem was getting up the stairs", says Maurice. "This was very serious as the bedroom and our only toilet is on the first floor."

Maurice's wife Vicki took to the Council's website and soon found out about Disabled Facilities Grants. These grants pay for essential home adaptations to improve the lives of disabled people to help them to remain in their own homes.

Maurice explains: "Within a few weeks of contacting the Council, two members of staff came to my home to go through the grant application. It couldn't have been simpler. They filled in all the paperwork. All I had to do was answer a few questions.

"In August of this year the fitters came to install the stairlift. They finished the work inside two days. It was no trouble at all.

"Since then my life has been transformed. No longer do I struggle up the stairs on crutches. I can come and go upstairs as I please. What's more these life-changing improvements haven't cost me a penny."

Finally Maurice says: "Life is so much easier now. I am extremely appreciative of the Council and grateful for all its help. I feel like I've got my home back!"



Applying for a Disabled Facilities Grant

Disabled Facilities Grants pay towards home adaptations for disabled people typically funding stairlifts, bathroom and kitchen adaptation, ramps and lifts.

To begin the process of applying for a grant, you will need to contact the Occupational Therapy Team based at Kent County Council on 03000 41 61 61 or a private occupational therapist. Once they've visited your home and made an initial assessment your details will be passed on to us to decide upon eligibility.

Grants are subject to a maximum of £30,000 per application and some of the grant may be repayable on the sale or transfer of your property.

If you have any queries about Disabled Facilities Grants please contact our Private Sector Housing Team on 01732 227000 or e-mail private.sector.housing@sevenoaks.gov.uk