

Review of Disabled Adaptations in 2012 including those funded by Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT

1. Introduction

In late March 2012 Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT contributed £1m towards adaptations in Leicestershire & Rutland. By December 2012, all of the £1m had been spent on eligible adaptations throughout the County.

Disabled adaptations are carried out to eligible (usually vulnerable, low income) households to enable the recipient to remain safely in their own home. This may prevent them having to access more expensive services, for example hospital or care services. These adaptations are usually referred to as disabled facilities grants (DFGs).

The adaptations can also be preventative, for example installing a stair lift for an elderly person may prevent a fall.

The most common types of adaptations in Leicestershire are level access showers (LAS) and/or stairlifts, both of which can help to prevent falls.

2. The Benefits of an Adaptation for a Recipient

It was agreed that the Leicestershire & Rutland Authorities would gather information from people who had received an adaptation in order to assess the benefits to the wider health and social care community of the PCT contributing to the adaptation fund.

Research has established that in 2000 the University of York produced a report on The Economic Cost of Hip Fracture in the UK. It concluded that the cost of an individual hip fracture at that time was calculated to be £25,424. (Appendix 1).

In addition Officers are aware of the positive feedback received from grateful recipients of grant funding.

In order to get ongoing information around the benefits of investment in housing adaptations it was decided to ask all adaptation recipients in 2012, to complete an evaluation form. The information in this report is based on adaptations done between April and December 2012 and considers whether the adaptation improved their;

- quality of life
- quality of health
- independence
- level of comfort and
- wellbeing.

A postal survey was carried out in all but Hinckley and Bosworth, who used a telephone survey to obtain results. In addition customers were asked to say if the adaptation had improved their life in any other ways. The comments made are of great value to the study. A copy of the questionnaire is attached at appendix 2.

3. Results

3.1 Throughout Leicestershire 209 questionnaires were completed. The number returned approximates to the amount of funding in each Authority and the number of adaptations carried out.

Authority	Number of Questionnaires returned
Blaby	57
Charnwood	48
Harborough	13
Hinckley & Bosworth	16
Melton	20
North West Leics.	17
Oadby & Wigston	27
Rutland	10
Total	209

3.2 Below in a Figure 1 is the analysis of the types of adaptation carried out at the respondent's property.

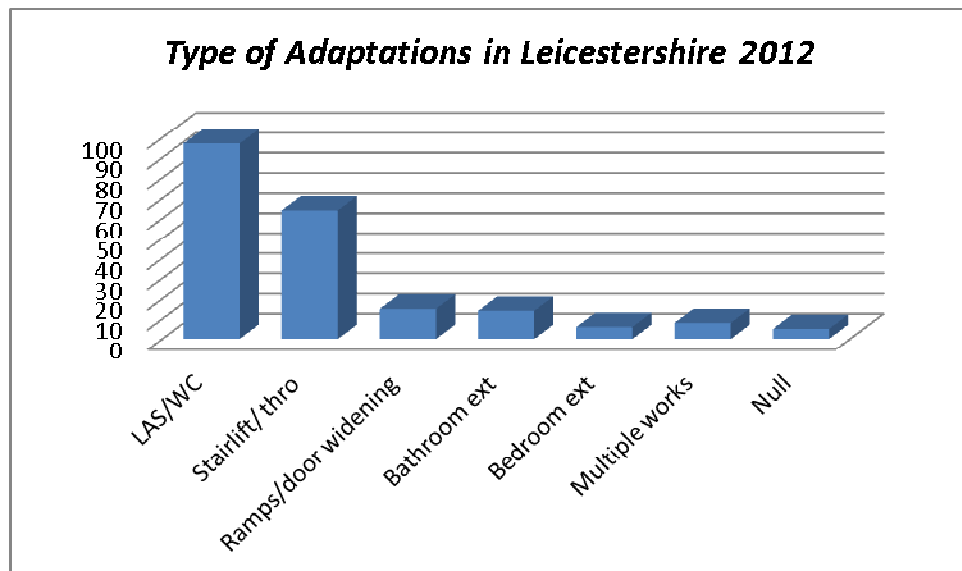


FIGURE 1

It can be seen that level access shower (LAS) and toilet adaptations are required most and lifts (primarily stairlifts, but this also includes through floor lifts) are also frequently needed.

3.3 Figure 2 below shows the results the percentage of respondents who thought the adaptation had improved their life in each of five ways.

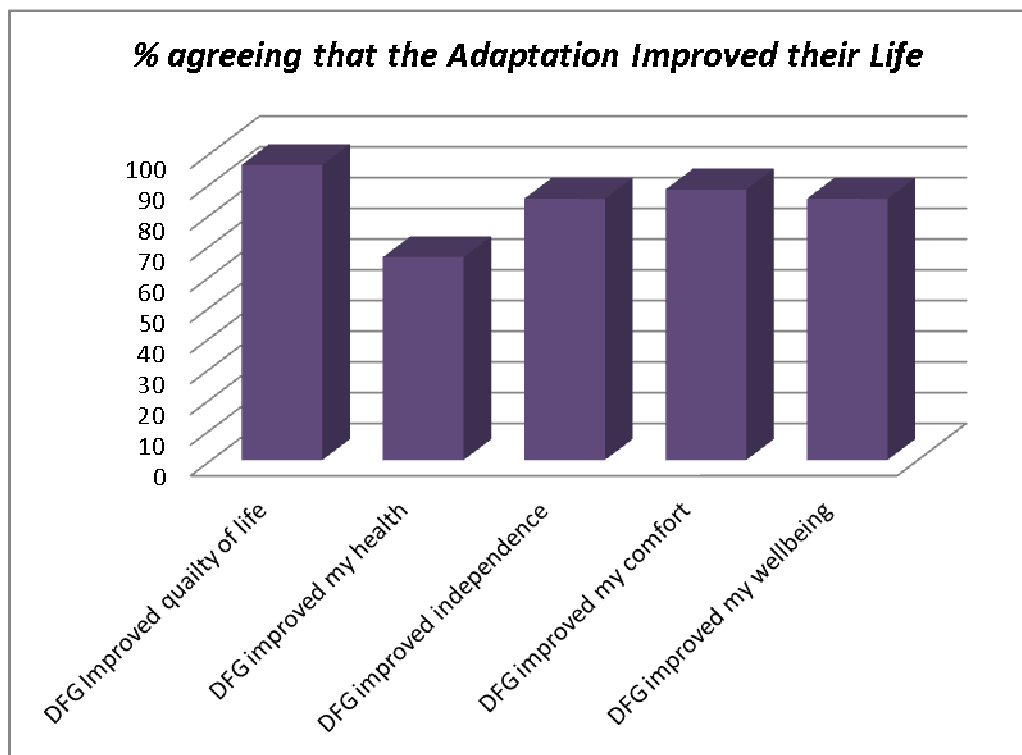


FIGURE 2

Column 1

96% of respondents claimed that the adaptation improved their quality of life, for example; ***“The adaptation has given me dignity and privacy”***. A further 0.7% responded that the adaptation hadn't improved their quality of life but qualified this in that the stairlift had not suited them as they were unable to get off it safely and another that the stairlift was not functioning at the time of responding.

The respondents were then asked to state by what % the adaptation had improved their quality of life. One third of respondents answered this and the average was **it had improved their quality of life by 81%**. It needs to be determined if there is an easier way to elicit this information in future.

Column 2

66% of respondents stated the adaptation improved their health. This may be explained that whilst an adaptation may make life easier, it is less likely to actually improve their health. As an example; following installation of a stairlift one recipient stated ***“I no longer get breathless”***, the recipient no longer has to exert themselves getting up stairs rather than the adaptation actually making breathing easier.

12% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their health and the average was **it had improved their health by 69%**.

Column 3

85% of respondents said the adaptation had improved their independence; ***“my carer no longer has to dice with death to get me up/down stairs BEST ASPECTS - given me back some freedom”***.

25% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their independence and the average was **it had improved their independence by 78%**.

Column 4

88% of respondents maintained that the adaptation had improved their comfort ***“Can manoeuvre around parkhome without bashing myself against doors. Less restricted in own home”***.

26% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their comfort and the average was **it had improved their comfort by 83%**. This is the best result.

Column 5

85% of respondents confirmed that the adaptation had improved their wellbeing ***“It has taken away the pressure and stress of climbing in and out of the bath”***.

26% responded to whether the adaptation had improved their wellbeing and the average was **it had improved their wellbeing by 75%**.

- 3.4 The results for individual authorities were fairly typical of the results overall. The only notable difference was that Hinckley & Bosworth (H&B) had 100% responses to the percentage questions. H&B carried out phone surveys so were able to obtain responses more directly.

3.5 Equalities Data

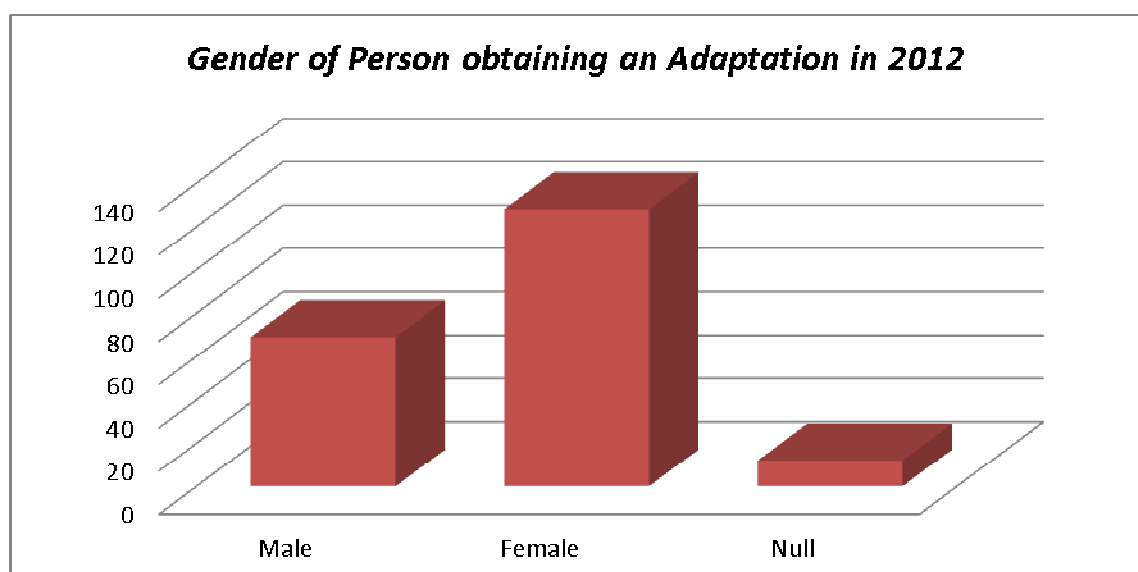


FIGURE 3

There were 128 female respondents, 69 male and 12 did not respond.

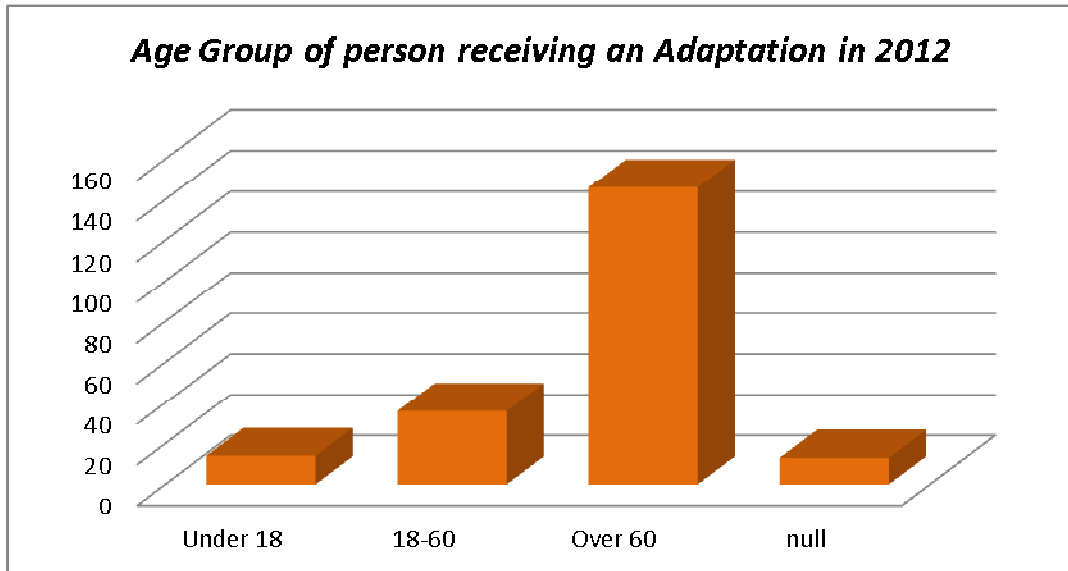


Figure 4

There were 14 child adaptations, 36 adult adaptations and 146 senior adaptations. There were 13 forms where age group was not completed.

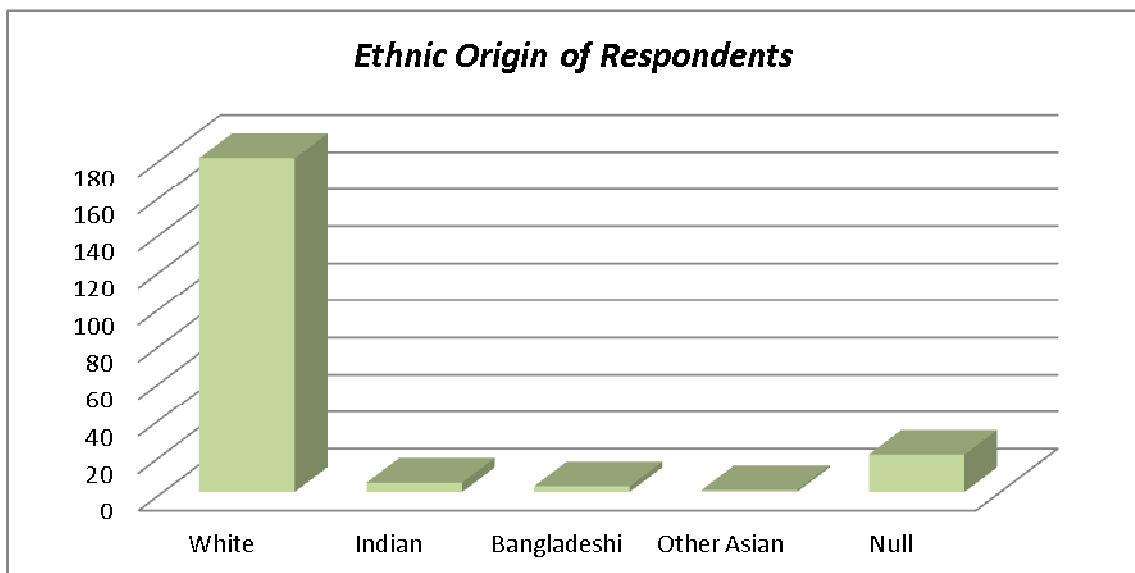


Figure 5

There were 180 white respondents, 5 Indian, 3 Bangladeshi, 1 other Asian and 20 did not respond.

4. Conclusion

Disabled adaptations appear to be good value for money, enabling recipients to remain in their own homes. The individual benefits to recipients also indicate that these adaptations are a good investment for the quality of life, independence, comfort and wellbeing of recipients.

A list of the comments made by recipients follows. It makes you realize the difference these adaptations make to people's lives.

COMMENTS ADDED BY THE RESPONDENTS

As a left hemiplegic I no longer fear climbing over my bath to get under shower

It has made it easier for my wife and carers to shower me

It has helped my husband, he used to carry my commode chair up & down stairs each day himself being 78. BEST ASPECTSS: I can now get to the bathroom myself

IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - yes spouse

It is so much easier to shower, I am no longer afraid of falling. No having to climb into the bath to have a shower, and not having to hang onto the wash basin getting out.
DO BETTER nothing everything was alright and everyone involved was so kind, I cannot fault anything

IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - yes son my full time carer.

BEST ASPECTS - can be wheeled straight into shower.

*Being able to go upstairs to bed instead of sleeping downstairs on settee.
thank you.*

Less pain in limbs, easy for husband to get wife upstairs

IMPROVED YOUR LIFE - by being able to use bathroom and own bedroom for privacy

IMPROVED LIFES of OTHERS - yes as before someone had to sleep downstairs with me

BEST ASPECTS - being able to access upstairs of home and access own bedroom well makes my life easier in general,

OTHERS - yes all of us but my daughter as I can go toilet on my own etc.

BEST ASPECTS - all of it

IMPROVED MY LIFE - easier for the carers to move me around the house

*IMPROVED LIFE OF OTHERS - carers, and family living in house
BEST ASPECTS - can get through doorways without a struggle*

Easy access to upper floors

Getting up and downstairs

Having the shower safer – when getting into the bath I struggled with bath, now I can shower several times a day if needed.

BEST ASPECTS – fact that I don't need to climb into bath as I have slight incontinence problems coupled with arthritis

DO BETTER – absolutely nothing job well done and all clean on completion **THANK YOU** to all who helped, respectful, cheerful and clean. It has made me more confident in bathing and more comfortable

OTHERS - husband

BEST ASPECTS - walk in shower big enough for chair

OTHERS - my wife who's my carer with ulcerated legs

BEST ASPECTS - get to toilet upstairs

***OTHERS** - Ellis our son has now got his own room which has made all our lives a lot easier.*

IMPROVED LIFE - yes after original shower was put in 11" too high off the floor

OTHERS - yes my wife

Shower now easily available

My carer no longer has to dice with death to get me up/down stairs

BEST ASPECTS – given me back some freedom

A lot easier to get upstairs to bed and downstairs in a morning

It has made life safer for all of us, we can use the kitchen, when son is home, safely now as he can't access it without assistance.

BEST ASPECTS - it is safe no-one can get locked in if there is a fire no-one can get trapped

OTHERS - husband and carer

BEST ASPECTS - previously it was impossible to get into bath now everything is at floor level

Made it easier to use 100% of my home 100% of the time

***BEST ASPECTS** - not having to worry prior to use that I may fall. I used to dread using stairs and bath because I have fallen quite a number of times*

Stairlift is faster and smoother than the previous one

BEST ASPECTS - big room for mum

OTHER WAYS –this adaptation has made our home safer and our belongings safer
IMP LIVES OTHERS – yes, Caleb cannot go upstairs unattended and is therefore safe and

not throwing things downstairs
BEST ASPECTS -it works safe and it stops Caleb getting into dangerous circumstances

IMP LIFE - yes I can get upstairs and downstairs
BEST ASPECTS - going down and upstairs
OTHER WAYS - yes I feel much more confident when showering

IMP LIFES OTHERS - the provision of the wet room makes it much easier for
my husband to help me shower

BEST ASPECTS -walk in, no steps to worry about, much brighter and safe
seat to use. No longer struggle. Can now shower unaided

DO BETTER- everything satisfactory

Freedom of access

Bathing easily

**Adaptation improved life for the whole family
No more dangerous transfers upstairs**

I no longer get breathless
It is nice not to have to struggle in and out of the bath

Not used yet as waiting for shower chair, but assume personal hygiene will be much
easier

Made things much easier for my wife

*Live alone so getting to the toilet is much easier
Can now get upstairs. So much easier getting upstairs
Am able to bathe OK now*

It has taken away the pressure and stress of climbing in and out of the bath

It would be yes to all of the other questions, when the lift is working properly

It has improved my personal hygiene

Health Hygiene and being independent

Yes very easy to clean

Yes my wife can now use the Bathroom which helps her life

I am now safer in my Shower

I have more energy and less pain not having the stairs to climb

Without having the Stair Lift I would have had to move

Does not require too much assistance whilst bathing now

Mother does not have to carry child upstairs now - very impressed with speed of installation

Stairlift was for son (18-60) as well - complete independence for both of us

Life much easier as can now access bathroom upstairs

**Do not have to struggle in and out of bath, make life much easier for wife (carer)
Much happier now as do not have to have a bed bath**

Made life much easier for husband (carer) as much more hygienic
No longer need assistance to get upstairs - do not have to rely on wife
Has taken away anxiety as was afraid when coming downstairs - given complete independence

Enables me to bathe independently and taken away fear of falling

Improved quality of life - given ability to take control of own hygiene - no longer need assistance

Much easier for husband to assist with bathing - he has own difficulties and this has benefited him

Having bedroom/bathroom downstairs has given me dignity and privacy - life easier for family too

LAS/Specialist toilet & stairlift have made lift much easier for wife (carer) - dignity with hygiene

LAS/ground floor toilet means can access much more quickly - do not need to wake parents during night - given me independence - steps to front door make it easier for me to get in/out of home
No more stairs to climb
Ease of use

I have tick one coz all the rest is alright

Many ways improved my life, my independence, All are best aspects

Can shower on my own. Make better - fan hums all night

Removed lift as couldn't get off safely at top.

Feel more safer, wonderful!
Improvement for husband, he does not have to get me up & down stairs, gives me independence
would like a ramp to my garden

Shower best part of adaptation. Want to compliment workmen

More independence. Carer does not need to help me upstairs or out of bath

Easier for my wife as she has arthritis, I have cancer. Easy access is best aspect

Best - walk in shower

No struggle going up stairs, don't get out of breath so not so dangerous (emphysema)

No more stairs to climb

Independence - not needing to wait for help

Being able to bath and get around

Restored confidence

No need for support in/out bath, better dignity
Can use bathroom without help from another person

Lift - now able to get back in room, builder left a mess
Can go upstairs when want

More independence

Independence

Able to shower and bath
Able to shower every day without struggling
Easy access
Ease of having a shower

Going upstairs and showering much easier

No stepping up to shower cubicle and turning into it.

Could not manage the stairs before but can now
it helps me stay independent

**Adaptation has improved dignity, self esteem and confidence.
Improved quality of life for disabled son**

I don't have to get in and out of the bath

**carer can now supervise showers
adaptation is everything I needed and more
given me extra pride in my house
easier cleaning. Overall appearance is good**

safety going up and down stairs

*life is so much easier
it helped the carer and helped getting up the stairs*

it made showering the disabled person much better

I am able to have a shower

No more stairs to climb

Now can safely play in garden- mental health benefits to parents/ safety for child

**Kitchen safety adaptation. Can now cook safely and avoid burning himself. Can
stay at home without carers. Mental wellbeing for proud ex serviceman**

*Can manoeuvre around parkhome without bashing himself against
doors. Less restricted in own home*

Child can safely wash without need to watch hold Child has freedom. Safety
issues.

Garden safety work. Child can safely play in garden without need to watch closely.
Child has freedom. Safety issues. Parents get brief respite, Some stress/mental
health benefits.

**Can be washed with dignity. Mental health benefits. Reduced chance of carers getting
back issues.**

Can access WC and survive without need to enter home, mental and financial benefits.
Safety benefits, falls prevention.

Stairlift allows parents to carry child to bedroom safely , safety benefits to child and
parents/carers

Shower allows parents to wash child safely without need to immerse in bath.

Safety benefits, carers back health improved.

I have more energy and less pain not having the stairs to climb

Best Aspect -I can go upstairs when I want to instead of just once to go to bed

Everything is exactly as we wanted. Marvellous