

7 February 2023

Wheelchair Services

Does wheelchair services for Northern Ireland have a mission statement?

Please see attached Mission Statement of Regional Disablement Services, which includes the Regional Wheelchair Service based in Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

What is the remit of the wheelchair services for Northern Ireland?

The service supplies wheelchairs, cushions and accessories to permanent wheelchair users.

The aims of the service are to determine the user's needs and prescribe appropriate equipment in association with the user's Occupational Therapist and specialised equipment, where clinical need is identified. Assessments for wheelchairs and associated equipment are undertaken by Medical Technical Officers, with an Occupational Therapist.

A Wheelchair Approved Repairer contractor provides a province-wide service by undertaking the following roles for permanent wheelchair users only, who have received their wheelchair via the Regional Wheelchair Service:

- 1) Delivery and demonstration of wheelchairs.
- 2) Repair service.
- 3) Wheelchair modifications, as requested by an Occupational Therapist or Medical Technical Officer.
- 4) Provision of standard wheelchair accessories, when requested by Occupational Therapists.
- 5) Collection and recycling of wheelchairs.
- 6) Annual Planned Preventative Maintenance of powered wheelchairs.

How to access the service:

A referral to the service from an Occupational Therapist based in one of the five Health and Social Care Trusts.

Who now is in charge of the wheelchair services for Northern Ireland?

The service is managed by Ms Geraldine Laughlin, Service Manager Neuro-Rehabilitation, based in the Regional Acquired Brain Injury Unit, Musgrave Park Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

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Who is responsible for policy for the wheelchair services for Northern Ireland?

Representatives from each of the five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland are responsible for the policy on wheelchair services.