## Help with the stairs...

At the Independent Living Centre we have a selection of different stairlifts for assessment, as well as other options such as through-floor lifts, and supporting rails. Give us a call on **01380 871007** to book an appointment with our Occupational Therapist to find out what would be suitable for you.



## Things to consider when thinking about getting a stairlift:

- The types of lift available include: seated stairlifts for straight or curved stairs; standing stairlifts; perching stairlifts; stairlifts with wheelchair platform; through floor lift
- Options for controls include: user operated controls; remote controls; and audible signals to alert blind and partially sighted users when the lift has reached the top or bottom
- Most companies can offer solutions if the track for the stairlift cannot continue beyond the top or bottom step, or there are a few steps at the top of the stairs on the left or the right.
- Most companies guarantee their lifts for a year. It is advisable to have an inspection every 6 months, and annual servicing. It is recommended to obtain a quote for this prior to purchase.
- Stairlifts can often be bought new, refurbished, or through a rental scheme.

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Before buying anything from a magazine, TV advert or the internet, can you say yes to the following questions?

- Have you had an assessment with an Occupational Therapist?
- Have you asked a friend or family member to be with you when the salesperson visits?
- Have you been told the full price? Delivery/fitting may be extra.
- Have you compared prices with other companies?
- Have you checked the item will fit and work in your home? Can you try before you buy?
- Are you being offered a guarantee? Is the repair service local?
- Have you been given all the information in writing? Are there contact details in case of a problem?

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## Before buying a stairlift, can you answer all of the following?

- Have you spoken to Adult Social Care at your local council?
- Have you had an assessment with an Occupational Therapist?
- Have you seen and tried a range of different options?
- Will you be able to fold up seats and footrests if necessary?
- Have you tried different controls? E.g. joystick, remote control
- Can you bend your knees well? Most people need the stairs to be 750mm wide to be comfortable.
- Is a stairlift the best option for you? People with poor balance, epilepsy, dizzy spells, memory problems, or wheelchair users may want to look at alternatives.
- Will the company buy the stairlift back? Get this in writing if yes.
- Will the company service the lift? Is the repair department available 24 hours a day?
- Who will fit the lift? Are they registered with a professional body?

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