

July's independent living technology news

Here's what's new in the world of independent living technology this month.

Public policy, legislation and campaigns

New government disability unit to tackle accessible housing and consumer market experiences

The government has [announced a series of reforms](#) designed to improve the lives of disabled people. Among the new measures is a pledge to set up a cross-government disability unit, which will initially work to make housing more accessible and improve disabled people's experience of consumer markets.

Key care bodies launch new digital social care advice website

A number of national social care organisations have joined forces to launch [an online digital social care hub](#) that will offer information and advice to the sector on how technology can be used to support clients.

Guide to home adaptations promotes holistic approach

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists has published [a guide to planning and delivering home adaptations](#) in a timely manner.

Charity starts blog on accessible gaming

The charity SpecialEffect has launched [a new video game accessibility blog](#) to share tips on how disabled people can enjoy the latest titles and consoles.

Technological developments and innovations

Researchers build non-invasive mind-controlled robotic arm

A team of researchers from Carnegie Mellon University have used the latest sensor technologies and machine learning techniques to a [mind-controlled robotic arm](#) that does not require brain implants.

Haptic clothing provides sensory-feedback on surroundings

A three-year European Union funded project is [developing sensory-feedback](#) clothing with a built-in computer-connected wearable camera that can convey information to people with hearing or visual impairments about what is happening around them and translate it into vibrations and other haptic signals.

Hand-bike device converts manual into electric wheelchair

A disabled Polish entrepreneur has created a wheelchair accessory that can convert a manual wheelchair into an electric hand-bike at the press of a button. [The Blumil Go](#) is designed to be easy for users to fit to their wheelchair unaided and can be used indoors as well as outdoors.

IKEA previews more accessible home products

IKEA has announced that its OMTÄNKSAM suite of products aimed at disabled people, which debuted in 2017, will be renewed with [a range of fresh offerings](#) for the kitchen and bathroom in 2020.

These stories were originally published in the dispATches newsletter – a free monthly e-mail about assistive technologies that empower disabled and older people to live more independently. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)