

Information Sheet



23. Computer Adaptive Technology

More and more services are moving online; however, for some, standard computer equipment can be challenging. There are many adaptations that can make a computer much easier to use.

At the Disability Information Bureau we offer individual assessments so we can ensure that you get access to the right equipment. We can also help you out with where to buy it.

You may also wish to join one of our computer classes, which are free and accessible in our Macclesfield premises.

Please call Macclesfield 01625 501759 to book an assessment.

Examples of Adaptive technology for Computers

Big Keys Keyboard

A key board with keys four times as large as a standard keyboard helps those with a visual impairment and those that need a larger surface area to hit the correct keys.

They can also come with a key guard so that a person with a tremor does not accidentally hit the wrong keys.



Rollerball Mouse

For many people controlling the mouse can be challenging. The rollerball mouse is static on the desk meaning you are no longer chasing the mouse around the desk! It has different adaptations to suit people who may have difficulty gripping.

Further help is available for a charity called Ability Net.

This is a national charity which can help assess adaptive technology requirements and offer free IT support in the home.

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Their home service has a network of disclosure checked volunteers who offer free computer assistance to disabled people in their own homes. You may have a problem with viruses, need some help installing broadband or be confused about updates or error messages.

If you would like a personal visit from one of their volunteers, call freephone 0800 269 545 or e-mail enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk

My Computer My Way

AbilityNet have also developed a tool called 'My Computer My Way' which is all about adapting your computer for free to suit your individual needs more precisely. It is a comprehensive, easy to use guide to the accessibility options available for free on your machine. Please use the link below to find out more

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/advice-info/my-computer-my-way>

Factsheets

AbilityNet also have a library of factsheets which provide a huge range of practical advice about specific conditions as well as the hardware and software adaptations that can facilitate digital inclusion.

Check out the factsheet library for free downloadable information

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/factsheets>