

Other Health and Social Care Services

The British Red Cross also offers other health and social care services which include: equipment loan, therapeutic care and transport.

Equipment loan

Our equipment loan service can offer wheelchairs, crutches, commodes and other equipment you may need. You can either collect the items or we are able to deliver for a small charge. You can loan an item for up to 6 months (a donation is requested). We also sell a number of items.



Therapeutic Care

We are able to offer hand massage to our Home from Hospital beneficiaries and also therapeutic massage in specialised locations (e.g. some hospitals, local hospices/ groups etc..) We are also able to offer external training in Therapeutic massage (which is validated by the Royal College of Nursing).

Transport

We are often able to transport people to medical appointments etc.. or are able to organise transport for them. Contact us for details.

Want to volunteer for one of these services?

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you think you would be interested in helping these worthwhile services you can apply online at www.redcross.org.uk or use the contact details on this leaflet to get in touch with us.

"Your volunteer helped by being generally very kind and understanding. After she had left, I felt quite uplifted– I just felt better."

Home from Hospital Service User

For more information on the home from hospital schemes in the West Sussex area or to find out about the other services we offer or to source volunteering opportunities please contact:

Tel: 0800 0280 831

Fax: 01622 690012

Email:

enquirieskentandsussex@redcross.org.uk

redcross.org.uk

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British Red Cross working in partnership with:
West Sussex County Council.



Home from hospital
and health and social care services

In West Sussex

About the home from hospital service

The British Red Cross provides short-term care and support in the home for both people being discharged from hospital and their carers. The service is usually available for two to four hours a week for between four and six weeks.

This service helps thousands of people every year following a short stay in hospital across the UK. Similarly, we are there to help prevent unnecessary hospital re-admissions by providing extra support and care at home.

The support offered by our volunteers can smooth the process of settling back into a normal routine and enable people to regain their confidence and independence.

The service includes:

- > assistance with shopping, light housework and meal preparation
- > collecting prescriptions and form filling
- > offering companionship
- > rebuilding confidence
- > support for health visits
- > dog walking and looking after pets
- > signposting to other support agencies



How to access the home from hospital service

The service is free to anyone recently discharged from hospital or another care environment and accepts self-referrals although the service user should have been discharged from hospital or a care environment within the month prior to referral.

The home from hospital service accepts referrals from :

- > Hospital staff and discharge teams
- > Occupational therapists
- > Social workers
- > Individuals, their families and carers

“I would wholly recommend the service to anyone... after a stay in hospital; it really is a ray of sunshine.”

Home from hospital service user

What happens next?

A member of Red Cross staff or a trained volunteer will make the first visit to the beneficiary prior to discharge from the hospital or care unit or, if not, within the beneficiary's home. At this point, the particular needs of the beneficiary will be discussed and a level of service agreed. Following this, a volunteer will contact the beneficiary and agree a time for the first visit.