

Behaviour and Safety in the Home

Before referral:

We all understand how important it is to keep your child safe at home and there are many products easily available in shops or online that support this e.g. window restrictors, electric socket safety covers, fridge locks, thermostat temperature controls, stair gates, short lead kettles etc.

However, if after trying all / any of the above and your child continues to be at risk or create risk for others then you may need a referral for a Housing Occupational Therapy assessment.

If considering a referral please ensure that if your home is rented your concern is not related to a repair issue which can be fixed through your landlord / Housing Association

Also, the Housing Occupational Therapist will need to know what specific and consistent behavioural strategies you have put in place.

Please note a parent or carer can refer directly to the Housing Occupational Therapy team using the referral form. Available from: <http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people/oxon/integrated-therapies/occupational-therapy-2/>

If the referral is made by a parent or carer then we may also need to contact other professionals e.g. Social workers, GP's, schools etc.

Housing Occupational Therapy:

- Once we have accepted your referral your child will be placed on the waiting list.
- We will arrange to meet with you and your child at home to find out how we can help you.
- The Occupational Therapist will assess your child and family's needs, and offer the most appropriate and necessary intervention.
- This intervention may require a change of routine or implementation of new or different behavioural strategies; which will then be reviewed over time.
- Sometimes the Occupational Therapist will need to access the Disabled Facilities Grant for the child if substantial adaptations are required. Or access a Housing Association's Minor Works Grant.
- In some cases families are advised that moving house is the most effective way of meeting your child and family's needs and the Occupational Therapist can support you with this by providing a housing recommendations document.

Useful Resources/Links:

Disabled Facility Grant Information: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants>

Other information on challenging behaviour can be found at:

www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk

www.scope.org.uk

www.autism.org.uk