

Shopmobility South Gloucestershire



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Registered Charity No. 1107379

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Shopmobility (South Gloucestershire) is a small non-profit making charity and provides a service to people with mobility problems.

Our service is funded by South Gloucestershire Council, local Town and Parish Councils, Grant from charities and donations.

We seek to improve independence, social inclusion and social contact for people with mobility problems and their carers. This is often cited as one of the most significant benefits. We work in collaboration with other agencies to identify and support people with mobility problems and those most at risk of social isolation due to a disability.

We can provide information on disability issues or sign post and support people to agencies that may be able to help on other related matters.

We look to front line staff within statutory and community organisations to identify, signpost and support isolated people with physical disabilities access our service.

This may be beneficial for those with limited vision, early onset dementia or those without access to transport.

**'The number of older people in South Gloucestershire, many of whom are frail, is projected increase and grow considerably to 47% in those aged over 75 by 2030'
(South Gloucestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016)**

The document goes on to say that

'The cost of falls to the health and social care system is estimated to cost 10 Million within South Gloucestershire each year.' and there has been an increase of 75% of people aged 85 and over since 2002.

It is estimated that up to 16% of people over 65 feel lonely and 12% feel isolated. It is estimated that 50% of older people who experience a hip fracture for example are unable to live independently.

Given these figures it is clear that mobility scooters are likely to reduce the risk of falling and reduce social isolation. It is however unclear how many people experiences of social isolation are directly due to suffering a physical disability.

However feedback from our surveys have shown that many people feel less isolated in having the ability to use a mobility scooter and the majority have cited an improvement in well-being. Demand on our service is likely to increase with a rapidly ageing population.

We recognise the impact of sudden loss of health through accident or illness may compound the social isolation a person experiences.

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Mobility scooter provision enables people to access local services and shops. Some of our scooters have shopping boxes that enable shopping to be carried.

The following are examples of why people use our service.

- 1/ Financial barriers people may experience in affording their own scooter.**
- 2/ Lack of storage or access to their home.**
- 3/ To gain confidence, independence, social contact and mobility without pain or exhaustion**
- 4/ Disrepair of scooter**
- 5/ Due to the temporary nature of disability caused by operation or accident.**
- 6/ People with a disability problem may wish to visit us from another area**
- 7/ To provide respite for a carer or relative enabling each to undertake their own activities.**

We recognise people who have their own scooter use us given problems associated with:

- 1/Getting exposed to cold or rain when travelling distance to the centre.**
- 2/Concern of scooter break- down whilst travelling.**
- 3/Exertion and risk associated in lifting and assembling a scooter in and out of a car.**
- 4/Lack of pavement or hazardous roads to travel. Only scooters capable of speed beyond 4mph (class 3 scooters) can travel by road.**

Our daily or longer-term hire of mobility scooters may provide a solution to many of the above problems particularly those recovering from an operation or temporary disability or in the need to gain confidence.

We have scooters that will dismantle and fit within most car boots that can be taken on holiday or trips.

The British Legion may be able to provide a mobility scooter to ex forces personnel and their spouses for people on limited income.

There are grant providers able to provide funding to purchase a scooter/wheelchair subject to both level of income and disability.

We are desperate to find a person who can undertake the role of Treasurer or prepared to give a few hours a month as a committee member.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel we can be of any help or able to offer assistance.