



- Over four million people could have been helped by a short-term wheelchair loan or mobility aid in the last year, but most end up going without according to a new report from British Red Cross.
- Access to a short-term mobility aid can make a huge difference to people's lives - helping speed up recovery time, enabling someone to get back to work, improving mental health and wellbeing, increasing independence and reducing isolation.
- Wheelchairs and mobility aids provide an economic benefit – enabling people to stay in work, reducing caring responsibilities for families, and speeding up recovery time which reduces pressure on the NHS.

British Red Cross
invites you to attend:

Maintaining Mobility

**Understanding the unmet need for
short-term mobility aids**

Tuesday, 11 September, 2018

Dynamic Earth, Holyrood Rd,
Edinburgh EH8 8AS

12.30pm – 2pm

Buffet lunch from 12 noon

Please join us to learn more about our research and hear directly from people with experience of living with a short-term mobility need.

Learn about the challenges this presents and find out how to take action.

RSVP to Fiona MacLeod at fmacleod@redcross.org.uk
or call 0141 891 4037 to confirm your attendance.

**The power
of kindness**

The British Red Cross would like to share with you our latest research report Maintaining mobility – Understanding the unmet need for short-term mobility aids and invite you to the launch event.

The event will take place on **Tuesday 11 September, 12.30pm - 2pm** (lunch served from 12 noon) at **The Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh** (full details attached).

The report Maintaining mobility – Understanding the unmet need for short-term mobility aids and the accompanying Scotland advocacy summary explores the levels of need and impact of short-term mobility aids, including wheelchairs and makes recommendations for improvement.

Our research found this was an issue which had a significant impact on people:

“He was a prisoner. It was upsetting – he couldn’t get to work, or stay as active as we usually are. With a [wheel]chair, he could have got to his job, done paperwork, been focussed and productive. Not destructive.”

Key findings from the report show:

- Inconsistent provision of short-term wheelchairs leaving many people unable to access a short-term wheelchair.
- An estimated 4.3 million people could benefit from access to a mobility aid, such as a wheelchair.
- 65 per cent of those with an unmet mobility need experienced significant negative impact on their quality of life. It affected employment, independence and confidence and risked social isolation.
- Short-term wheelchairs can help people with mobility issues manage day to day activities and almost half (49 per cent) said their wheelchair hastened their recovery time.

We hope you will join us on Tuesday 11 September to find out more about this issue and discuss what action you can take to improve things.

RSVP to Fiona MacLeod by emailing fmacleod@redcross.org.uk or

calling 0141 891 4037.