**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**SERVICE USERS ADVICE NOTE**

**Suitcase / Portable Ramps**

* Suitcase / portable ramps should only be provided following assessment by an Occupational Therapist (OT) or Occupational Therapy Assessment Officer (OTAO). They are suitable for use with wheelchairs only, not mobility scooters. They are usually not suitable for walking aids unless a qualified professional has risk assessed this task.
* The ramp should only be used in the location assessed for by the Occupational Therapist, and only with the wheelchair used in that assessment. If there is a need to change either of these, please contact the Occupational Therapist for further advice or reassessment.
* Always follow the fitting guidelines provided with the ramp. Take care to ensure that the top of the ramp has a secure purchase before stepping or wheeling on to it.
* When wheeling someone down the ramp, it is usually easier and safer take them backwards, with the lap strap applied for safety if available. When wheeling someone up the ramp it is generally better to wheel them forwards.
* If you are struggling with door thresholds please speak to the Occupational Therapist as they may be able to recommend solutions for this.
* The person in control of the wheelchair must be of good health and strong enough to manage the weight of the wheelchair and occupant together. They should ensure that they are wearing appropriate footwear with grip.
* Take extra care in poor weather.
* Suitcase ramps are portable and designed for temporary use so should be removed after every use and stored safely.
* Please note that UPVC thresholds / frames may be damaged by use so please monitor this – KCC or NRS will not be liable for any damage.
* If your needs are long term or you are struggling to manage the ramp, please discuss more permanent solutions with the Occupational Therapist.
* If you have any concerns about the condition or maintenance of your ramp please contact NRS on 01622 235300.
* If your needs change in future or you have concerns about the appropriateness of the ramp for your situation, please contact Social Services for an Occupational Therapy assessment on 03000 416161.