**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**SERVICE USERS ADVICE NOTE No 19: Temporary Wooden Ramps**

**Temporary Wooden Ramps & Steps Manufacturers Information, Advice & Safety Guidance Sheet**

**Construction**

All items are manufactured using 18/20mm external plywood. Joints are glued and screwed during assembly.

All wooden Surface finishes are treated with Sadolin Wood Protection. Top surfaces are finished with Acrylic Primer undercoat followed with Coo-var Suregrip for wood anti-slip paint.

**Fitting & Usage on Site**

Fitting on site usually includes the use of screws and wall plugs fixed into hard standings, or the use of small steel ‘L’ shaped retaining brackets, to prevent tipping hazards when in use. Environments can differ and will influence the number of fixing points utilised to secure items. Wooden steps will, as a minimum, be fixed at three points.

***Users are reminded that ramps are provided for permanent wheelchair users only and are not intended for use with mobility scooters, walking frames or other walking aids.***

**Life Expectancy**

Given the wide range of applications, locations and environments that these temporary items are applied to, it is estimated these structures will remain sound for up to two years. This will depend very much on weather conditions and the frequency and type of use. This figure is only a guideline and users are expected to monitor the soundness of their step or ramp and its fixings on a regular basis. Any significant structural deterioration, or failed fixings, should be reported back to the County Technician Service via Kent adult social care as soon as possible in order for them to be checked and assessed for any repair requirements. Any repairs will be undertaken accordingly. Users are reminded that wooden ramps are only ever a temporary provision, the County Technician Service are unable to replace ramps once they have come to the end of their serviceable life, these should be replaced with a concrete or other alternative before they deteriorate.

**Removal & Disposal**

The County Technician Service are unable to arrange for the removal and disposal of wooden ramps or steps once they are no longer needed or have come to the end of their serviceable life. It is the responsibility of the Service User, carer or a family member to dispose of it appropriately *(Some Local Councils have collection services for household items).*