



**Viva Access Ltd**

**Housing Adaptation and Design Courses  
In-House Training (UK)**

**2017**

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>About Viva Access</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The Viva Access Team</b>	<b>3-4</b>
<b>List of Training Modules</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Course Outlines:</b>	
– Reading & Using Plans	<b>6</b>
– Ramps: Assessment & Design	<b>6</b>
– Adapting & Designing for wheelchair users	<b>7</b>
– Disabled Facilities Grants	<b>7</b>
– Bathroom Adaptation & Design	<b>8</b>
– Accessible Lifts (residential)	<b>8</b>
– Kitchen Adaptation & Design	<b>9</b>
– Housing & Equipment Issues for Bariatric Users ( <u>Introduction</u> )	<b>9</b>
– Technical Considerations in Adaptation Work	<b>10</b>
– Adapting for Children with Challenging Behaviours ( <u>Introduction</u> )	<b>10</b>
– Housing for People with Visual Impairments	<b>11</b>
<b>Testimonials</b>	<b>11-12</b>
<b>Contact Viva Access</b>	<b>13</b>

Viva Access Ltd

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## About Viva Access

Viva Access Ltd provides training for occupational therapy services, housing associations, home improvement agencies and other organisations throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland. It has more than fifteen years' experience devising and delivering housing design and adaptation courses and a very well established reputation in this field. Viva Access trainers and consultants are chosen from a range of backgrounds, including surveying, occupational therapy, architecture, access consultancy, and environmental health.

Previous Viva Access clients include:

- OT services throughout the UK such as:
  - Hertfordshire
  - Brighton & Hove
  - Suffolk
  - Barnsley
  - Oxfordshire
  - Redcar and Cleveland
  - Cardiff
  - Denbighshire
  - Clackmannanshire
  - Belfast.
  - London Boroughs such as Newham, Richmond, Merton, Wandsworth & Camden
- Baron Homes Corporation Limited
- National Housing Federation
- OT services in the Republic of Ireland
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Centre for Accessible Environments
- Disabled Living Foundation
- London Disability Arts Forum
- University of York and Reading (OT Accessible Housing MSc)

## **Viva Access Team**

Viva Access consultants have extensive experience of working in access related fields, and are members of organisations such as the Access Association, the Centre for Accessible Environments and the College of OT Specialist Section in Housing (COTSS-Housing). They are chosen from a range of backgrounds, including surveying, occupational therapy, architecture, access consultancy and environmental health.

### **Trish Sweeney – Occupational Therapist / Access Consultant**

Trish is lead trainer for Viva Access. She worked for many years as Access Officer for London Borough of Islington and more recently as independent Access Consultant and manager of Viva Access. Trish is also a qualified Occupational Therapist with more than twenty years' experience working in health and social care services in Britain and Ireland. She currently divides her time between managing Viva Access, delivering training courses to OT and other services, acting as Regional Secretary for the Access Association and working as independent Access Consultant for David Bonnett Associates

### **Dawood Hadaddi – Environmental Health Officer / Grants Officer / Surveyor**

Dawood is an Environmental Health Officer and Surveyor. Since 1990 he has specialised in the area of housing and worked as Housing Environmental Health Officer, Regeneration Consultant and Private Sector Housing Manager for a number of local authorities. In his current role, he is responsible for managing the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget, as well as the Private Sector Housing and Renewable Assistance budget and delivering adaptations services to the local Registered Social Landlord (RSL). Amongst his portfolio of responsibilities for the past 7-8 years has been managing a home improvement agency, delivering a full range of services to the older and vulnerable residents including Handyperson services aimed at delivering minor adaptations, to managing a Housing Occupational Therapist delivering a fast assessment and intervention service.

### **Gordon Heath - Occupational Therapist**

Gordon is a qualified Occupational Therapist with more than 8 years' experience of community based housing adaptation and design work and, since 2012, housing assessments on behalf of charities and private companies, such as Viva Access. He specialises in children's adaptations and recently completed his diploma in Accessibility and Inclusive Design from Salford University.

**Emma Luddington - Architect / Access Consultant**

Emma is a highly experienced Access Consultant and trainer and for many years was Director of Babel Disability Consultants, as well as Access Officer for LB of Islington. She has specialist knowledge of Due Diligence and Strategic Reviews and currently divides her time between her architectural practice, her access consultancy work and her role as board member for Habinteg Housing Association.

**Shane Elliott – Housing Occupational Therapist**

Shane is a qualified Occupational Therapist with more than 20 years' experience working in both health and social care sectors. Since 1995 he has specialised in the area of housing adaptation and design. He is an experienced trainer and public speaker, delivering courses regularly on accessible housing issues and presenting at conferences and access related public events.

**Alison Grant - Architect / Access Consultant**

Alison studied at the University of Sheffield, qualifying as an architect in 1993 and working for many years in Canada, Hong Kong and Australia on projects ranging from mud-brick self-build housing to skyscrapers, shop fit-outs, schools and libraries. Latterly she developed a strong interest in inclusive design and in designing and adapting buildings to make them more accessible, sustainable and enjoyable for everyone to use. She has a particular interest in accessible housing and undertakes regular commissions to adapt housing for disabled people via the mechanism of the Disabled Facilities Grant. Alison is a Consultant Member of NRAC (National Register of Access Consultants), an accreditation body established to promote and uphold standards of Access Consultants and Access Auditors.

**Anita Rush – Clinical Nurse Specialist (Bariatrics)**

Anita is a Clinical Nurse Specialist and has specialised for many years in the area of bariatrics. She delivers training to OT and other services throughout the UK and Ireland on issues such as manual handling, equipment and adaptations, in relation specifically to the bariatric / plus size user group.

## Training Modules

The modules listed below can be 'mixed and matched' to create a programme of your own choosing.

	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>Course Length</b>
<b>01</b>	<b>Reading &amp; Using Plans</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>Ramps: Assessment &amp; Design</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>Adapting &amp; Designing for Wheelchair Users</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>Disabled Facilities Grants</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>Bathroom Adaptation &amp; Design</b>	<b>Full-Day</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>Accessible Lifts (residential)</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>07</b>	<b>Kitchen Adaptation &amp; Design</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>Housing &amp; Equipment Issues for Bariatric Users (introduction)</b>	<b>Full-Day</b>
<b>09</b>	<b>Technical Considerations in Adaptation Work</b>	<b>Full-Day</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Adapting for Children with Challenging Behaviours (introduction)</b>	<b>Full Day</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Housing for People with Visual Impairments</b>	<b>Half-Day</b>

## Reading & Using Plans

The module aims to provide delegates with the essential knowledge and skills needed to interpret architectural drawings (such as plan views, sections and elevations), read to scale, and review housing schemes for their accessibility. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- understand how to interpret plans views, sections and elevations
- be able to read to scale (and understand the uses of different types of scales)
- have experience of working in metric and understand different types of dimensioning
- be familiar with common architectural conventions and symbols used on drawings such as title blocks, break lines and symbols for switches, sockets, lighting, appliances etc
- understand how to manage drawings received electronically (via email) as PDFs
- have experience of reviewing housing schemes within a group setting

## Ramps: assessment & design

This course deals with the essential issue of ramping and aims to provide delegates with the skills and knowledge needed in order to provide appropriate recommendations for people who experience difficulty in overcoming changes of level within their environment. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be able to assess client considerations and discuss how these can affect ramp choice/design
- be aware of the key principles and criteria relating to ramp design
- have an overview of the different types of ramps available (portable, temporary and permanent) and feel confident specifying for individual users
- be familiar with the concept and use of ramp gradients
- understand key technical issues relating to installation of permanent ramps

## Housing for wheelchair users

This module introduces delegates to essential design principles for wheelchair accessible/adapted housing and advises delegates on how to make recommendations for both individual and generic users. It overviews a wide range of wheelchair standards such as turning circles, door widths, corridors and storage space – and demonstrates ways of assessing individual user requirements. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- understand where space (wheelchair) standards originate from
- understand which standards are mandatory and which good practice only
- have awareness of wheelchair standards in relation to a variety of external and internal spaces, such as parking bays, pathways, turning circles, doorway & corridor widths etc
- be able to measure individual users for circulation space, worktop heights, lift car dimensions, clear opening door widths and so on
- understand how to create and use templates in adaptation work
- understand how to apply computer software to adaptation/design work
- have experience in assessing a wheelchair scheme for its accessibility

## Disabled Facilities Grants

This module is for all those interested in issues of legislation and policy and their relationship to accessible housing. The course focuses on the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) and outlines provisions contained within the grant. It explores how DFGs can be best utilised in order to advocate for disabled clients. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be able to discuss the legislative and policy context relating to housing adaptations
- Be able to discuss the history and development of the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)
- be familiar with the essential criteria that apply to DFGs
- understand who can apply for a DFG
- understand which adaptations are grant eligible (and which deemed mandatory)
- have explored common issues and constraints relating to DFGs
- be aware of useful publications and websites relating to DFGs



## Bathroom Adaptation & Design

This full-day course covers key issues relating to the adaptation and design of accessible bathrooms. It provides delegates with essential knowledge and skills needed to work confidently and effectively in this area. The course is interactive and involves a variety of training methods, including visual presentations, desktop exercises using plans and case studies. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be able to discuss a range of client considerations relating to bathrooms and understand how these can influence the adaptation or design of a scheme
- be familiar with the optimum layouts and space standards for bathrooms
- have awareness of the recommended heights and positioning of bathroom fixtures, fittings and appliances
- be able to discuss some structural, technical and safety issues relating to bathrooms
- have experience of problem solving bathroom adaptation issues within a group setting

## Accessible Lifts (residential)

The module deals with the essential issue of accessible lifts in residential properties. It aims to provide delegates with the skills and knowledge needed in order to carry out assessments and provide appropriate recommendations for people with mobility impairments who experience difficulty in overcoming changes of level within their environment. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be able to assess client considerations and discuss how these affect lift choice / design
- be aware of the key principles and design criteria relating to lifts
- have an overview of key space standards regarding approach routes and siting of lifts
- be aware of the types of lifts available, understand the differences between them, and feel confident specifying for individual users
- understand some structural and technical issues relating to accessible lifts

## Kitchen Adaptation & Design

This module explores key issues relating to the adaptation and design of accessible kitchens and aims to provide delegates with the essential knowledge and skills needed to work confidently and effectively in this area. The course is interactive and utilises a variety of training methods, including visual presentations, desktop exercises and case studies.

On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be able to discuss client considerations relating to kitchens and understand how these can influence the design of new build schemes or adaptation of existing spaces
- be familiar with optimum layouts and space standards for kitchens
- have explored ways of incorporating flexibility into kitchen design
- be aware of a wide range of equipment options
- understand how to measure individual 's for worktop heights, wall cupboards, toe recesses and so on
- have experience of problem solving kitchen adaptation issues within a group setting

## Housing & Equipment Issues for Bariatric Users (introduction)

This full-day course aims to provide professionals and others working in the field of accessible housing an insight into equipment, design and adaptation issues for the bariatric user group, so they can work more effectively and confidently in this area.

On completion of this course, delegates should:

- Be able to discuss the background to bariatrics, definitions and a range of client issues
- Be aware of companies in UK providing specialist equipment and pros and cons of each
- Understand the risks to both carers and users in terms of moving and handling and how to assess and reduce these risks, including those relating to means of escape.
- Have increased proficiency in assessing space requirements of individual plus-size users and in planning layouts of key areas such as bathrooms
- Have problem solved cases within a group setting
- Understand technical issues relating to dead/live loads, SWLs, door openings etc

## Technical Considerations in Adaptation Work

This full-day course aims to increase delegates' understanding of methods of housing construction and to explore links between key building elements and the impact of these on potential for adaptation work. For example: how far can you move toilets when adapting bathrooms? can you ramp over manholes and air bricks? Can load-bearing walls be removed? On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be familiar with building terminology
- understand a range of technical and structural issues pertaining to common adaptations such as threshold removal, ramp installation, creation of hard standings, shower installations and widening of doorways
- understand issues relating to means of escape within residential housing
- have explored ways in which to resolve or circumvent technical problems in order to optimise schemes

## Adapting for Children with Challenging Behaviours (introduction)

This course introduces delegates to a range of adaptation & equipment issues relating to children with challenging behaviours. On completion, delegates should:

- be able to discuss recent research into the housing circumstances of children with challenging behaviours (and their families)
- be aware of the legislative and policy context within which adaptations are provided and understand how to use these to advocate for adaptations for children with cognitive impairments and challenging behaviours
- have discussed the pros and cons of a wide range of equipment options aimed at promoting safety within the home – for example, window locks, climb-proof fencing, safe play spaces, radiator guards, biometric door locks, motion sensors etc
- have discussed key principles of safeguarding and risk assessment, including issues of deprivation of liberty and parental zones of responsibility
- have explored modification of challenging behavior through use of environmental sensory profiling (related to social of model disability as opposed to medical model)

## Housing for People with Visual Impairments

This module is aimed at professionals interested or working in the specialist area of housing design & adaptation for people with visual impairments. The module explores a variety of design and adaptation issues pertaining to residential housing, such as colour & tonal contrast, lighting and way finding. On completion of the course, delegates should:

- be aware of the different models of disability, have an overview of common eye conditions and a greater insight into the nature of visual loss
- understand the concept and use of colour and tonal contrast in housing design and adaptation, and how to optimise these
- be familiar with key lighting issues and recommended lighting levels
- have an overview of adaptation and design issues pertaining to residential housing
- be able to discuss the concepts of way finding and navigation

### Testimonials

**"A very big thank you to you and your colleague for a wonderfully fun, informative and eye opening day"** - Kent County Council

**" I think this was a fantastic course. Definitely my most useful in-service so far. Thank you"** - Reading Borough Council - course on Housing Adaptations & Inclusive Design

**"An excellent course – I wish I had done it earlier". "Speakers made the content particularly interesting. It was definately one of the best courses I've been on"** - Occupational Therapists, Reading Borough Council

**"Excellent handouts and a good balance between theory and practice. Found the day very useful to my work"** - Richmond Occupational Therapy Service - course on Reading and Using Plans

"Thank you for a great course. All of it was excellent. I will be more confident when designing bathrooms and kitchens - relating to heights, turning spaces needed etc, and also relating to people with visual impairments" - Medway Occupational Therapy Service

"Excellent informative day, run by someone who quite obviously is an expert in the field and a great resource for us to draw on" - Taunton Occupational Therapy Service

"Thank you so much for yesterday. I found it VERY informative and really just the tip of the ice berg for me as most of what was presented is brand new to me" - Juan, HCA Healthcare

"A sincere 'thank you' to you and to Emma, for what proved to be a very enjoyable as well as informative two days of training. Excellent value..... - " Ian, OT Team Leader, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust

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