

## **Power chairs and controllers**

This workshop was presented by Susan Gold, OT team lead with Westmarc. Susan gave an interesting and informative presentation which covered the criteria for power chair provision, a demonstration of various models of power chair, a practice session and an overview of different controllers.

In Scotland, the criteria for the provision of a powered chair includes an inability to walk or self propel indoors, a successful eye test [equivalent to DVLA], seizure/blackout free for twelve months and an environmentally friendly home for a powered chair. Susan looked closely at the environmental issues involved including space, and the structure of the home, which is particularly important when using these heavier chairs with bariatric clients.

Following a demonstration of various models of chair and a crash course in basic control technique the delegates withdrew to the car park for an interesting practice session, which included kerb climbing!

The final part of the workshop included invaluable information on the variety of controllers that can be used to accommodate different grips and abilities.