

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: MEMBER/OFFICER REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS- IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 24 OCTOBER 2002	Ref: SKMCD/	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides Committee with a progress report on the implementation of the Member/Officer Review of Equipment and Adaptations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A report to the Social Work & Housing Committees in October 1999 identified a number of issues relating to the assessment and provision of community equipment and adaptations. Committee approved a recommendation to establish a joint Member/Officer working group. The decisions of the group were agreed by Committee in November 2000 and have been the subject of regular progress reports to Committee since that time.
- 2.2. A report by the Joint Future Group, the community care policy making wing of the Scottish Executive requires agencies to jointly resource and manage equipment and adaptation services, including a combined store, by April, 2002.

3. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- 3.1. The aim of achieving a joint equipment service between Social Work and Health is continuing to progress well. The service will have three main elements:
- A joint equipment store
 - An information and assessment unit
 - A mobile unit
- 3.2. The joint equipment store has been operational since May 2002. Renovation work on the information and assessment unit, located adjacent to the joint store, is now complete. The recruitment process for staffing the Unit is well under way, with December 2002 as a projected start date for successful candidates. Arrangements are also in progress for a range of demonstration/display equipment to be available within the Unit.

- 3.3. The Transport section of the Council commissioned the Mobile Unit, which has now been delivered. The exterior design for the Mobile is in the process of being commissioned and the final design will incorporate ideas produced by service users and carers. This element of the service was previously the subject of a presentation to Committee.
- 3.4. The letting of a contract for the servicing, maintenance, supply, installation, removal and storage of equipment was agreed by Committee in May 2002 and is now operational. The service and maintenance element of this contract has been extended to some of the equipment funded via Health, which will result in an improved service.
- 3.5. The stock control system MESALS 2000, is installed. This will ensure efficient monitoring of the delivery, fitting, repair, return and recycling of equipment. It is web enabled which will allow local staff to access stock levels and availability, and the public to view items of equipment through an on-line catalogue. The Partnership Board will receive and consider regular MESALS reports in order to monitor the service. Early reports indicate that the Joint Store has received an average of 1800 referrals every month since opening.
- 3.6. A number of other changes have been made to facilitate improvements to the work of Occupational Therapy and support staff. This has resulted in significant improvements to waiting times for assessment and major increases in the numbers of people receiving the delivery of equipment.
- 3.7. Appendix 1 shows waiting list information for assessment. Appendix 2 shows waiting list information for adaptations to be carried out by the Housing Department, and the resources that would be required to meet assessed need at different point bands. One of the unintended consequences of improving assessment times has been to create a greater volume of referrals to Housing, whose capacity to meet assessed need is contingent upon available resources.

4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

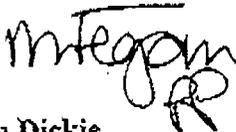
- 4.1. Service developments described have been funded from additional monies included in the Social Work budget as a Council service enhancement. Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust have contributed £100,000 towards the building and renovation costs of the Fern Street site.
- 4.2. The posts for the Information and Assessment Centre and Mobile Unit were advertised on Friday 6th September, 2002 and consist of 2 Information Workers and an Equipment Adviser.
- 4.3. The joint equipment service is an example of effective partnership working across agencies. The new joint service is overseen by a Project Board, the membership of which is drawn from partner agencies.

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5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
11 September 2002



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing & Property Services
11 September 2002

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332065) or John Gormley (Service Development Manager, Housing) (TEL: 01236 812560)

APPENDIX 1

**Waiting Lists for Occupational Therapy Assessment
(no's of people)**

AREA TEAM	December 2000	February 2001	May 2001	July 2001	Sept. 2001	Nov. 2001	Apr 2002	June 2002	Aug 2002
AIRDRIE	632	615	454	355	125	74	136	158	117
COATBRIDGE	299	254	354	315	212	0	15	18	88
CUMBERNAULD & CHRYSTON	352	269	209	141	152	266	90	62	67
MOTHERWELL	103	94	58	56	66	49	124	60	90
BELLSHILL	299	195	103	256	229	106	50	56	54
WISHAW & SHOTTS	240	103	114	96	86	123	48	44	10
TOTAL	1,925	1,530	1,292	1,219	870	618	463	398	426

- Waiting lists reduced by (79%) in 18 month period.
- All those waiting for assessment have been screened and are in lowest priority category.
- The national and local increase in referrals of 15-20% per annum means that progress in managing this work is always likely to be uneven.
- The increase in referrals at the same time as achieving a progressive reduction of the waiting list, shows the scale of service improvement.

Appendix 2

ADAPTATIONS EXPENDITURE

Budget Position

The following table provides a summary of the budget and waiting list for adaptations as at 8th September 2002.

During August 2002, the budgets assigned to the North and South Housing Divisions were amalgamated into a single fund. In the first week of September 2002, £180, 978 was released to carry out work down to and including 20 points.

A Budget Provision £	B Completed Expenditure £	C Unassigned Budget £	D Waiting List Value £	E Variance* (C - D = E) £
1,694,800	1,217,272	477,528	1,397,438	-614,910*

*As agreed at Social Work Committee on 22nd August 2002, the above figure includes budget virement of employee costs to adaptations as a result of underspend from slippage and new developments.

The figures indicate that on 8th September 2002, an additional £614,910 would have been required to clear the waiting list.

Number of People Waiting

The following table outlines that on 8th September 2002, 545 people were awaiting provision of adaptations following assessment. The table also highlights that all high priority work was processed, and that the 545 people awaiting adaptations were categorised as being of lower priority (19 points and less).

Points Range	Value £	Number of People
25 - 30	Nil	0
20 - 24	Nil	0
15 - 19	1,016,749	395
10 - 14	380,689	150
Total	1,397,438	545

Previous Years Expenditure

The following table details the expenditure made on adaptations since 1996.

Year	Revenue £	Capital £	Total £
1996/97	300,000	1,149,000	1,449,000
1997/98	1,316,000	111,000	1,427,000
1998/99	1,280,000	50,000	1,330,000
1999/2000	1,735,000	60,000	1,795,000
2000/01	1,514,000	188,000	1,702,000
2001/02	2,036,800	200,000	2,236,800
Total	8,181,800	1,758,000	9,939,800

The table demonstrates the increased resources made available as demand has continued to increase each year.