

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

TO:	Social Work Committee	Subject: OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICE - EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS
FROM:	Jim Dickie Director of Social Work	
DATE OF COMMITTEE:	14 November 1997	
REPORT AUTHOR:		
REF:	JD/AAH	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the present situation regarding the provision of equipment and adaptations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 For the financial year 1997/98 the Department's budget for Equipment and Adaptations is currently £642,003.
- 2.2 This was the budget allocation inherited from the predecessor Authority, and has to fulfil the Council's obligations to provide equipment, and contribute to adaptations to properties in the private sector to enable disabled people to live in their own homes.
- 2.3 In each of the two years prior to reorganisation of local government, the above budget received additional funding on a one of basis from Community Care monies in agreement with the Health Board which brought spending to a total of approximately **£1.2 million** per annum.
- 2.4 The availability of these additional funds allowed the Department to address the historical shortfall in this budget which is compounded by a 15% increase per annum in demand for service since 1990.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The North Lanarkshire budget for Aids and Adaptations amounts to £642,003 and at 30 September commitments have been made amounting to £519,993.
- 3.2 At present there is identified through completed assessments unmet need of £535,096 across North Lanarkshire which clearly cannot be funded from the remaining £122,001 uncommitted budget.

- 3.3 It is further estimated that when assessments are completed on outstanding referrals this will result in additional unmet need.

4. PROPOSALS

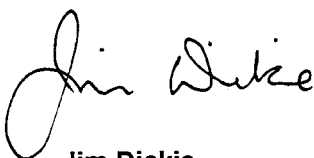
- 4.1 Lanarkshire Health Board have agreed that a resource transfer in respect of the closure of frail elderly beds can be used in the current year to augment the budget available to provide aids and adaptations for prevention of admission to hospital and other long term care.
- 4.2 The Department will seek in collaboration with other community care planning partners, to reprioritising the use of resources as outlined in the community care financial framework on a non recurring basis to tackle the most urgent aspects of the above problem.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Department will quantify the long term resources necessary to meet the needs of the authority both in terms of budget and personnel and will bring forward proposals early in 1998. Major community care partners will be consulted as part of the review process.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is requested that Committee
- (i) Note the overall position with the aids and adaptations budget and current levels of unmet need.
 - (ii) Note the proposals for non recurring use of additional resources in the current year
 - (iii) Notes the Department's intention to bring forward a report in early 1998 which will seek to address the issues raised in this report on a permanent basis.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
November, 1997

For further information on this report please contact, Brian McGuire, Principal Officer (Community Care) (01698 332031)