

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS SERVICE - PERFORMANCE REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES		
Date: 28 th FEB 2002	Ref: DM/DM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides Committee with a performance report on the provision of equipment and adaptations to people with disabilities.

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 joint group were agreed by Committee in November 2000, and have been the subject of regular progress reports since.
- 2.2. Implementation of the working group's recommendations has resulted in major service improvements and organisational changes. Progress on the latter is the subject of a separate report to Committee.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1. The Social Work Department are responsible for assessing the needs of people with disabilities and making provision to meet the needs where possible. This may include the supply of appropriate equipment which ranging from minor items such as cutlery to major temporary installations such as stairlifts. Some specific equipment such as pressure-relieving beds is the responsibility of the Health service to provide.
- 3.2. Where an adaptation is assessed as necessary to a Council property it is the responsibility of the Housing and Property Services Department to arrange and fund. If the property is owner-occupied the Housing and Property Services Department Grants section assess eligibility for grant assistance up to a maximum of £9,600 or 75% of the total amount required. Where the cost of adaptation exceeds this, the Housing and Property Services Department may make provision for the "top-up" element to the grant, subject to available resources. A contribution from the person concerned may be sought in these circumstances.
- 3.3. If the property is owned by a Housing Association it is the responsibility of the Association to arrange funding for an adaptation, which is usually sought from Communities Scotland (formerly Scottish Homes).

4. PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

- 4.1. This area of activity is subject, nationally and locally, to 15-20% annual increases in demand for service, in a climate of considerable national difficulties in the recruitment of qualified Occupational Therapists. It is important that the performance of Council Departments is seen in this context.
- 4.2. Appendix 1 shows the scale of assessed need for adaptations.
- 4.3. Appendix 2 shows the numbers of people waiting for assessment and progress achieved in reducing the waiting list. With a small number of exceptions, people are not waiting for provision of equipment after assessment. In the month of December 2001 744 people received equipment from the Social Work Department.

5. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY

IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The capacity of Council Departments to meet the demand for equipment and adaptations rests on annual, substantial supplements to the base budgets for these services. In 2000/2001 the Social Work Department doubled the resources available for equipment, spending a total of over £1.6m whilst Housing spent £1.7 m on adaptations.
- 5.2. The Council has made available a further £1.274m for extra spending on equipment and adaptations in recognition of assessed need for these services within North Lanarkshire in this financial year.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
 14th January 2002



Thomas McKenzie.
Director of Housing & Property Services
 14th January 2002

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332065) or John Gormley (Service Development Manager) (Telephone 01236 812650)

Appendix I

ADAPTATIONS EXPENDITURE

Current Position

An assessment of the waiting lists for Adaptations, carried out on 14th January 2002 is summarised in the following tables.

Improvement in carrying out assessments by the Occupational Therapists has increased demand for adaptations. Work is underway to assess if it is possible to increase funding to meet the higher demand. The additional £300,000 transferred from Social Work already is included in these summaries.

Division	Budget Provision	Committed Expenditure	Unassigned Budget	Waiting List Value	Variance
North	985,000	985,000	0	325,163	325,163
South	1,051,800	1,070,264	0	619,875	619,875
Total	2,036,800	2,055,264	0	945,038	945,038

The table reveals there is a shortfall of £945,038 against demand from assessed cases at 14th January 2002.

Waiting List Summary

The following table summarises the waiting list of assessed cases awaiting installation of an adaptation as at January 2002. The cases are grouped together in bands covering ranges of assessed need.

Points Range	North	South	Total
25 – 30	132,809	24,850	157,659
20 – 24	50,654	64,651	115,305
15 – 19	90,300	303,698	393,998
10 – 14	51,400	226,676	278,076
Total	325,163	619,875	945,038

To clear the current waiting list down to cases assessed with 15 points and above would require additional funding of £666,962.

To clear the waiting list completely at this time would require £945,038

Future Demand

The above figures consider only the known waiting list of assessed cases as at 14th January. Work is currently underway to estimate the level of demand from new cases referred after 14th January until the end of the current financial year.

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	2,055,264	200,000	2,255,264
Total	8,200,264	1,758,000	9,958,264

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

APPENDIX 2

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

AREA TEAM	December 2000	February 2001	May 2001	June 2001	July 2001	August 2001	Sept. 2001	Oct. 2001	Nov. 2001	Dec 2001
AIRDRIE	632	615	454	423	355	315	125	84	74	62
COATBRIDGE	299	254	354	334	315	222	212	207	0	10
CUMBERNAULD & CHRYSTON	352	269	209	205	141	232	152	245	266	211
MOTHERWELL	103	94	58	64	56	50	66	65	49	38
BELLSHILL	299	195	103	101	256	266	229	180	106	16
WISHAW & SHOTTS	240	103	114	62	96	101	86	54	123	119
TOTAL	1,925	1,530	1,292	1,189	1,219	1,186	870	835	618	456

- Waiting lists reduced by 1469 (76%) in 13 month period.
- All those waiting for assessment have been screened and are in lowest priority category.
- In July, Social Work restructuring transferred resources for Chryston Sub-office to Cumbernauld.
- 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.