

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: JOINT EQUIPMENT SERVICE - DEVELOPMENT REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 28 th FEB. 2001	Ref: DM/DM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides Committee with a progress report on the development of the joint equipment service 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 group were agreed by Committee in November 2000 and have been the subject of regular progress reports since.
- 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 according to timetable. The service will have three main elements:
- A joint equipment store
 - An information and assessment unit
 - A mobile unit
- 3.2. The contract for renovation work on the joint store building in Fern Street, Motherwell has been let by Design Services. Work has commenced and is expected to be complete during April 2002. Internally there are a number of requirements which have been the subject of a tendering exercise and are the subject of a separate report to Committee.
- 3.3. The contract for renovation work on the information and assessment unit, located adjacent to the joint store, is being negotiated by Design Services with projected completion in summer 2002.
- 3.4. The Transport section of the Council has now issued the order for the Mobile Unit, which will be delivered in summer 2002. This element of the service was previously the subject of a presentation to Committee.
- 3.5. An appointment has been made to the post of Joint Equipment Service Manager with the post holder taking up post on 4 February. The staffing establishment for the service has previously been approved by Committee and posts will now proceed to be filled.

- 3.6. Interim arrangements for the unification of contracts for the servicing and maintenance of temporary installations have been put in place pending a measured term contract being prepared by Design Services to commence in May 2002.
- 3.7. The stock control system MESaLS 2000, has been purchased and will be phased in over a 3 month period. 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.

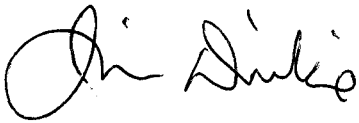
4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Service developments described have been funded from additional monies of £300,000 included in the Social Work budget for 2001/2 as a Council service enhancement.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (I) remit this report to Housing and Technical Services Committee for their interest; and
- (II) otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
9th January 2002

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332065)