

AGENDA ITEM No. 27

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: 9 MAY 2002	Ref: DM/DM	

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 and seeks approval to transfer resources, including staff, from Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust to Social Work.

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 well. 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 May 2002.
- 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 successful applicant now in post. The staffing establishment for the service has previously been approved by Committee and posts are being filled at the time of writing, including the transfer of Health staff to the new service.
- 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. This will be the subject of a separate report to Committee.
- 3.7. The stock control system MESALS 2000, has been purchased and installed on a phased basis. 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.
- 3.8. 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. In the period 3/12/01 – 17/3/02, 3,138 people were provided with equipment. Many more people were also provided with adaptations by the Housing Department.
- 3.9. 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 resources available to do so.

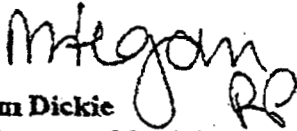
4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Service developments described have been funded from additional monies included in the Social Work budget for 2001/2 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 new joint equipment service brings together staff from North Lanarkshire Council and Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust. There is agreement for the total current costs of the Trust equipment service to transfer to Social Work. The Community Care and Health (Scotland) Act allows Local Authorities and Health Partners to pool resources. The amount is £405,016 which consists of staffing (£101,160), equipment purchase (£247,900), transport (£34,646) and other supplies and services (£21,310).
- 4.3. Staffing costs await uprating for 2002/3 and transport costs may increase, subject to calculations about the cost of leasing agreements for vehicles. The budget for equipment purchase is for items that the Health service are responsible for providing such as walking sticks, commodes, mobile hoists, and profiling beds. This budget covers all of the Lanarkshire Health Board area and is not adequate to meet assessed need. Spend on health equipment will be monitored separately and prioritised by Health service managers. The new joint service will be overseen by a Project Board, the membership of which will be drawn from partner agencies.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) approve the transfer of resources and staff from Lanarkshire Primary Care Trust as at para 4.2; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
25 March 2002



Thomas McKenzie
Director of Housing & Property Services
25 March 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, 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	Jan 2002	Apr 2002
AIRDRIE	632	615	454	355	125	74	72	136
COATBRIDGE	299	254	354	315	212	0	15	15
CUMBERNAULD & CHRYSTON	352	269	209	141	152	266	238	90
MOTHERWELL	103	94	58	56	66	49	26	124
BELLSHILL	299	195	103	256	229	106	41	50
WISHAW & SHOTTS	240	103	114	96	86	123	74	48
TOTAL	1,925	1,530	1,292	1,219	870	618	466	463

- Waiting lists reduced by 1462 (76%) in 17 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.
- A new recruitment campaign for Occupational Therapists has been launched to raise staffing levels.

Appendix 2

ADAPTATIONS EXPENDITURE

Current Position

An assessment of the waiting lists for Adaptations, carried out on the 31st March 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	1,005,000	1,001,721	3,279	604,014	-600,735
South	1,051,800	1,070,264	-18,464	756,296	-774,760
Total	2,056,800	2,071,985	-15,185	1,360,310	-1,375,495

The table reveals that the waiting list value at the year end is £1,360,310.

Waiting List Summary

The following table summarises the waiting list of assessed cases awaiting installation of an adaptation as at 31st March 2002. The grouping reflects the range of assessed need.

Points Range	North	South	Total
25 – 30	134,013	20,650	154,663
20 – 24	158,303	96,732	255,035
15 – 19	231,648	393,877	625,525
10 – 14	80,050	245,037	325,087
Total	604,014	756,296	1,360,310

To clear the current waiting list down to cases assessed with 15 points and above would require additional funding of £1,035,223.

To clear the waiting list completely at this time would require £1,360,310.

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.