

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: FUNDING FOR A MAJOR ADAPTATION TO AN OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSE – MR W
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 19 DECEMBER 2002	Ref: WB/NF	

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek assistance in the provision of a major adaptation, to a house in Motherwell, owned by Mr. and Mrs. W.

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. Mr. and Mrs. W have an Adult son, D who is 33 years old. D has been diagnosed with severe deteriorating multiple sclerosis, insulin dependant diabetes mellitus, and poor hearing. D is a dependent wheelchair user and has limited ability to transfer. He becomes fatigued upon any exertion and his diet had to be strictly controlled.
- 2.2. D lives with his elderly parents, whom he is dependent on for all of his personal care and moving and handling needs. Previously, D was able to access the upper level of the family home with assistance and adaptive equipment. However, as his condition is rapidly deteriorating, as is his elderly parents' abilities to assist, this practice has been assessed as being unsafe for the service user and his carers.
- 2.3. D has been assessed by an Occupational Therapist, and has been given a priority score of 26.

**3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1. It was proposed that bedroom and bathroom facilities be provided on the ground floor of the property. This was facilitated by the building of an extension to the rear of the existing house, purpose built to meet D's long term needs.
- 3.2. It was considered that this was the only option that would be suitable in the long term. D's condition is rapidly deteriorating. His abilities are limited at present, but these are likely to decline even further. His parents were assisting him to transfer on and off a stair lift, which he was using to access the upper level of the family home. However, this is no longer possible, due to the increased assistance D requires to carry out the transfer, and his parents reduced ability to assist due to their own health difficulties.
- 3.3. D is a young man who has to rely on his elderly parents for all of his personal care and moving and handling tasks. This affects his self esteem and he has often reported that he does not like to be dependant on his parents due to the ill effects this is having on their health.



3.4. Lesser adaptations had been considered and rejected by the assessing Occupational Therapist, as D's condition is rapidly deteriorating in nature, and as such these adaptations would not meet his long-term needs. Also, the amount of support that his parents are able to give is also deteriorating due to their own health difficulties.

3.5. As such the adaptation was the minimum required to meet D's needs.

#### **4. FINANCIAL / PERSONNEL / LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. Mr. and Mrs. W employed an architect who prepared a proposal for the work.

4.2. Competitive tenders for these works were obtained, and the total cost of the work, including VAT and professional fees was £37,999.50. An improvement grant of £9450 has been awarded by the Housing Department. Mrs. and Mrs. W are both retired, and D is unable to work due to his condition. They have indicated that they are unable to contribute to the balance of £28,574.50.

4.3. In such circumstances, the provision of additional (top up) funds in terms of section 12(1) of the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968 may be considered.

4.4. Where the amount of the top up exceeds £10,000 there is an arrangement approved by the Social Work Committee in August, 1998, whereby the director of administration will secure a standard security. This is registered in the title deeds of the property and specifies that repayment of the top up grant shall be required on a sliding scale if the property is sold or disposed of within 10 years, excepting disposal to the person with the disability for whom the adaptation was made, or disposal by the executor of the deceased owner action in that capacity. If the proposed top up exceeds £20,000, the arrangements also require the consent of the committee. As the case was ongoing before 01 June 2001, at which time the responsibility for top up funding was transferred To Housing, the Social Work department is responsible for funding the specified amount.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) Approve the top up funding of £28,574.50, secured by a standard security, to Mr. and Mrs. W; and
- (ii) otherwise note the terms of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**26 November 2002**

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