

AGENDA ITEM No. 20

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 27 <sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2003	Ref: SKMCD/ST	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. To advise Committee of progress in implementing the Joint Equipment Service and to provide an up date of information relating to the provision of adaptations.

## 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 to Committee since that time.
- 2.2. As reported by the Joint Future Group, the Scottish Executive requires agencies to jointly resource and manage equipment and adaptation services.
- 2.3. Audit Scotland is currently undertaking a baseline review of community equipment and adaptation services across Scotland which will examine how joint working is progressing at the local level, and how well such services are being managed. The returned information will be validated between December 2002 and February 2003, following which a small number of local authorities and NHS Trusts will be selected for a more in-depth examination of their management of services. It is anticipated that the final document will be published in the winter of 2003.

## 3. PROPOSALS/CONSIDERATIONS

### 3.1. Service Developments

- 3.1.1 The Joint Equipment Store has been operational since May 2002. The Joint Partnership Board meets every six weeks to monitor performance in relation to budgets and service provision, which is provided by the Stores' stock control system (MESALS 2000). The company responsible for this system plans to install an updated version in early 2003, and discussions are being held with IT services to ensure minimal disruption to services during installation. The newer version will be easier to operate and generate more sophisticated performance information.

- 3.1.2 The measured term contract for major items of equipment has been in place since August 2002, and has been extended to some of the equipment funded via Health. Meetings are held approximately every 6 weeks with Minnivator Ltd to monitor contract performance. Pre-paid customer satisfaction cards are being issued to all service users to monitor the service.
- 3.1.3 Two Disability Information Workers and an Equipment Adviser commenced employment in December 2002, and are currently updating information resources and display/demonstration equipment for the service.
- 3.1.4 Work on the exterior design of the Mobile Unit is nearing completion, and a schedule of visits across North Lanarkshire is being developed.
- 3.1.5 The official launch of the Joint Equipment Service is planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2003 and this is the subject of a separate report to Social Work Committee (27<sup>th</sup> February 2003).

### **3.2. Assessment**

- 3.2.1 The intensive training programme for Single Shared Assessment for older people concludes at the end of February 2003. Support for staff undertaking these assessments is being offered locally via the Local Care Partnerships.
- 3.2.2 Prior to a person being discharged from hospital, assessments are undertaken by Occupational Therapists employed by the Acute Trust. If the assessment indicates that an item of standard stock is required, it is provided, without the need for a further assessment by Social Work staff.
- 3.2.3 Appendix 1 shows waiting list information for assessment by Occupational Therapists and for simple assessment for equipment/minor adaptations by Reception Services staff. Two Occupational Therapists were successfully recruited in December, and will commence employment in early 2003, leaving only one vacancy. Arrangements are underway to recruit to this post.

### **3.3. Equipment and Minor Adaptation Provision**

- 3.3.1 Performance information from the Joint Equipment Service Stock System indicates the following level of activity in relation to the provision of equipment:
  - a) an average 1900 referrals per month since opening in May 2002.
  - b) approximately 2200 items of equipment are delivered per month.
- 3.3.2 The current budget for Equipment and Minor Adaptations is £1.3 M. An additional £500,000 was made available as a result of virement by Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2002. A further virement of £600,000 was approved at Social Work Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2002. It is estimated that an additional £600,000 would be required to meet the demands of assessed need until the end of the financial year.

### **3.4 Major Adaptations**

- 3.4.1 As approved at Social Work Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2002, additional funding of £305,000 has been transferred to the Housing and Property Department from the Social Work Department as a result of slippage within new developments. This has reduced the waiting list for adaptations.

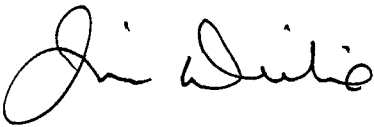
3.4.2 It has been recognised that whilst improvements to the major adaptation service were implemented as a result of the Equipment and Adaptations Working Group recommendations, there is scope for further improvement. Work on this is currently underway as part of a Best Value Review of Independent Living Services.

3.4.3 Appendix 2 is a summary of expenditure on Adaptations installed within the Council's own housing stock to date, together with details of the current waiting list.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1. Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**11 September 2002**

*For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332065) or Susan Kelso-McDonald (Service Coordinator, Independent Living Services) (TEL: 01698 332633)*

## APPENDIX 1

### Waiting Lists for Occupational Therapy (OT) Assessment and Equipment/Minor Adaptations via Reception Services (RS)

(Numbers of people)

AREA TEAM	December 2000	Nov. 2001	Apr 2002	Sept 2002	Oct 2002	Nov 2002	Jan 2003
AIRDRIE	632	74	136	117	78 OT 61 RS	99 OT 66 RS	120 OT 67 RS
COATBRIDGE	299	0	15	88	63 OT 65 RS	42 OT 65 RS	70 OT 65 RS
CUMBERNAULD & CHRYSTON	352	266	90	67	110 OT 63 RS	100 OT 45 RS	108 OT 48 RS
MOTHERWELL	103	49	124	90	24 OT 34 RS	29 OT 40 RS	37 OT 29 RS
BELLSHILL	299	106	50	54	20 OT 20 RS	15 OT 20 RS	43 OT 20 RS
WISHAW & SHOTTS	240	123	48	10	55 OT 0 RS	59 OT 0 RS	13 OT 25 RS
TOTAL OT/RS					350 OT 243 RS	344 OT 236 RS	391 OT 254 RS
TOTAL	1,925	618	463	426	593	580	645

- All those waiting for assessment have been screened and are in lowest priority category.
- 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.

## APPENDIX 2

### ADAPTATIONS EXPENDITURE

#### Budget Position

The following table provides a summary of the budget and waiting list for adaptations as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

Since August 2002, the budgets assigned to the North and South Housing Divisions have been amalgamated into a single fund. The statement includes the virement from Social Work of £305,000 as agreed at Social Work Committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2002.

A Budget Provision £	B Committed Expenditure £	C £ Unassigned Budget £	D Waiting List Value £	E Variance* (C - D = E) £
1,999,800	1,924,950	74,850	1,432,867	1,358,017

The unassigned budget is the estimated amount likely to be required to meet demand for emergency or high priority cases referred before the year end.

#### Number of People Waiting

The following table summaries the waiting list by points range as at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2002.

Points Range	Value £	Number of Clients
25 - 30	90,800	26
19 - 24	118,754	48
15 - 18	845,540	324
10 - 14	377,773	144
Total	1,432,867	542

#### 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.