

**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: COMMUNITY ALARM SERVICE - PURCHASE OF DISPERSED ALARM UNITS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 11 March 2004	Ref: JD/CC

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to increase the number of dispersed community alarm units to be purchased through a recently completed and approved Tender process.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1. The Community Alarm Service is an emergency response service supporting people to remain safely within the community. The service provides a 24-hour response service by means of dispersed alarm units in the homes of vulnerable service users.

2.2. In August 2003, Social Work Committee approved the purchase of 1,000 dispersed community alarm units to supplement existing numbers and allow further expansion of the service. This was undertaken through a tender process with all five UK-based suppliers of dispersed alarm units being invited to tender. The tender exercise was approved by the Social Work Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2004, awarding the contract to Tunstall Telecom.

**3. CURRENT POSITION**

3.1. As a result of the awareness raising and publicising initiatives in the last nine months, there has been an increased demand for support through the Community Alarm Service, with an average of 65 new referrals being received each month. This, together with the need to replace older alarm units that have been decommissioned through wear and tear or obsolescence, resulted in an immediate need for 600 of the new units by the time the tender was awarded in January of this year. If the present trend of referrals and further development of the service continues, a further supply of units will require to be purchased early in the new Financial Year.

**4. PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION**

4.1. In the financial year 2004-05, the Department intends to purchase a further supply of alarm units.

4.2. To ensure the availability of alarm units as required, the Council would immediately have to commence a further tender process, inviting the same five UK suppliers to tender for the provision of equipment identical to that currently purchased. Given the recent conclusion of such a tender process with an identical specification and list of suppliers, Committee has authority to consider extending the tender contract by increasing the number of units specified in the tender by 750.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Financial resources are available within the 2004-05 budget for the Community Alarm service to meet the cost of the additional 750 dispersed community alarm units.
- 5.2. Confirmation has been received from the supplier in writing that any additional units up to a further 750 units will be provided at the tendered price per unit.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. Committee is asked to:
  - a. Approve the proposal for the extension of the tender offer to include a further 750 dispersed alarm units.
  - b. Otherwise note the content of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**11<sup>th</sup> March 2004**

*For further information on this report please contact Christine Clelland, Service Manager Home Care TEL: (01698 332029)*