

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 10 MARCH 2005	Ref: ST/SKMCD	

1. Purpose of Report/Introduction

To advise Committee of the nature of current service provision relating to equipment and adaptations, including activity at the Joint Equipment Service.

2 Background

- 2.1 The responsibility for the provision of equipment and adaptations rests with Social Work, Housing and Health.
- 2.2 The Joint Equipment Service opened in May 2002, as a result of recommendations made by the Member/Officer Working Group, which reported to Social Work and Housing Committees in November 2000.

3 Proposals/Considerations

3.1 Service Developments

- 3.1.1 The Joint Equipment Service (JES) has been operational for over two years and it continues to experience a high demand for service. This reflects the "balance of care" shift from institution to community as more people are supported at home.
- 3.1.2 Single shared assessment continues to roll out to more care groups, which means there are more assessors accessing the service.
- 3.1.3 The JES now processes equipment provided to children with support needs at school on behalf of the Education Department. This is currently being funded by the successful joint bid to the Changing Children's Services Fund (CSSF).
- 3.1.4 Nationally, the Scottish Executive has established a group to review the existing guidance on responsibility for provision across the Council and the NHS in line with one of the key recommendations of the Audit Scotland report "Adapting to the Future" (August 2004).
- 3.1.5 The Joint Partnership Board recently reviewed the role and remit of the S.A.I.L (Support and Advice for Independent Living) Service, which includes the Mobile Unit. The main outcome of this work is the recommendation that further work is undertaken with service users and carers to develop this service, and this will be done in the context of the Independent Living Strategy Implementation Group.

3.2. Joint Equipment Service

- 3.2.1 Performance information highlights that there is high level of demand placed upon the existing service in ordering, storing, delivering, up-lifting and recycling equipment as follows:

MONTH	REFERRALS	DELIVERIES	UPLIFTS
15 Oct 04	1590	1786	453
12 Nov 04	2221	2005	807
10 Dec 04	2115	2054	923
7 Jan 05	1410	1443	442
4 Feb 05	2272	2235	993

3.3. Equipment and Minor Adaptations Provision (Social Work Provision)

- 3.3.1. The current budget for Equipment and Minor Adaptations is £1,715,060 (this includes £200,000 for Service and Maintenance via the Minnivator Contract and £22,300 for Hearing Impairment Equipment). This has been uplifted by additional non-recurring monies via the Corporate Management Team of £161,000 (2003/4 balance approved growth brought forward), £850,000 (approved by Personnel and Resource (Finance) Subgroup on 1 June 2004.), and £600,191 (approved at Social Work Committee on 13 January 2005). This takes the total budget for 2004/5 to £3,291,165.
- 3.3.2. At 3rd February 2005, the spend on Equipment and Minor Adaptations for 2004/5 was £ 2,180,586 and there is a committed spend of £562,035 (total spend of £2,742,621).
- 3.3.3. Based on the above total spend (actual and committed (£2,742,621)) to date and the projected spend to the end of the financial year (an additional £150,000), it is anticipated that there will be a projected underspend of £200,000 at 31st March 2005.
- 3.3.4. It has been agreed with Corporate Finance that any underspend in the Equipment and Minor Adaptations budget in this financial year can be carried forward for inclusion in the 2005/2006 budget allocation.

3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

- 3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2004/5 is £2,813,000. At 7th January 2005, the budget spend was £2,610,940, leaving a balance of £202,060.
- 3.4.2 The number of people waiting for an adaptation at 7th January breaks down as follows:

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
28	25 – 30	£111,965
55	20 – 24	£170,900
53	15 – 19	£172,800
149	10 – 14	£452,050
285	Total	£907,715

There is therefore, a projected shortfall of £705,655 to meet assessed need.

- 3.4.3 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants (HIG) Section has been increased to £1,035,000.

- 3.4.4 At the end of January 2005, the budget spend was £614,000 and there is a committed spend of £360,000 (total spend of £974,000). These figures do not include the value of grants that have been offered but not yet accepted (£106,000), or the value of estimated grants in the pipeline (£863,000).
- 3.4.5 It should be noted that the difficulties in meeting assessed needs for private adaptations was the subject of a separate report to the Housing and Technical Services Committee on 9th August 2004 which was also remitted to Social Work Committee on 28th October 2004. Currently, only service users who have scored 20 points or above on the priority scoring system are having their HIG application processed.
- 3.4.6 These figures continue to highlight the increasing level of demand for adaptations with the corresponding shortfall in resources to meet this demand.

4 Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 There continues to be an increasing demand and need for equipment and adaptations with significant implications for the resources of the Council. This is confirmed by the actual budget of £1,715,060, and the average annual spend of approximately £3M which has been reported to Committee on a regular basis.
- 4.2 It has been agreed with Corporate Finance that any underspend in the Equipment and Minor Adaptations budget in this financial year can be carried forward for inclusion in the 2005/2006 budget allocation.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Committee is asked to:
- (i) note the level of demand for equipment and adaptations,
 - (ii) note that the equipment and minor adaptations budget has been uplifted for 2004/5 on a non recurring basis;
 - (iii) and otherwise note the contents of this report.


Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
February 2005

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor on telephone 01698- 332177 or Susan Kelso-McDonald on telephone 01698 332633.