

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 25 AUGUST 2005	Ref: ST/JMcD		

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Committee of current service provision, performance and budgetary information relating to equipment and adaptations, including the Joint Equipment Service. In addition, approval is sought to re-designate an existing post within 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 a 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 Assessment and care management arrangements for people who have a sensory impairment have now been integrated into each of the Area Teams. Training has been delivered to a range of staff across the authority in sensory impairment awareness which has included the provision of equipment. This training will form part of an ongoing training plan.
- 3.1.2 The Scottish Executive has indicated that a one off payment of £300,483 is likely to be allocated in North Lanarkshire across Social Work, Housing and Property Services and NHS Lanarkshire. A joint statement has been submitted outlining how these additional monies could be used. Options proposed include addressing unmet need for equipment and adaptations, supporting joint working in providing equipment for people with a hearing impairment, IT development within the Joint Equipment Service, and the development of information resources. The outcome of the submission will be confirmed at a future Committee.
- 3.1.3 Work has been ongoing to identify options for the creation of an integrated Equipment & Adaptations Service across the Council. This has included a visit to Manchester Equipment & Adaptations Service and will be the subject of a further Committee report and a report to the Corporate Management Team.

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:

PERIOD	REFERRALS	DELIVERIES	UPLIFTS
1 Apr 05	1996	2200	575
29 Apr 05	2272	2541	567
27 May 05	1790	1950	410
24 Jun 05	2451	2413	557

3.2.2 In line with the Best Value Review of Independent living Services, the reconfigured SAIL (Support and Advice for Independent Living) service is now operational over two sites. In order to ensure the appropriate management of the additional administrative staff it is proposed that the post of Store Manager (AP1) be deleted. The current post of Store Manager has been vacant for some time and therefore there would be no personnel implications associated with the re-designation of this post.

3.2.3 The deletion of the Store Manager will fund the creation of an Administrative Assistant (AP1) post.

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

3.3.1. The 2005/6 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 a non-recurring amount of £764,000 (approved by Council on 10th February 2005). This takes the total budget for 2005/6 to £2,479,060.

3.3.2. As the total budget for 2005/2006 (including non-recurring funding) is less than that of recent years, there may be difficulties in meeting all assessed need.

3.3.3. At 8 July 2005, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2005/6 was £433,707. There was an additional committed spend of £501,310 (total spend £935,017).

3.3.4. The contract for the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment (including stairlifts and other lifting equipment) has been extended until 31 December 2005. It is proposed that an open tendering approach is taken to secure a future contract and this process should commence immediately.

3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2005/6 is £2,758,000. At 8 July 2005, the committed spend was £820,603.

3.4.2 The number of people waiting for an adaptation at 8 July 2005 was:

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
16	25 – 30	89,700
63	20 – 24	191,250
135	15 – 19	447,750
102	10 – 14	316,675
316	Total	1,045,375

- 3.4.3 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants for 2005/6 is £900,000.
- 3.4.4 At 30 June 2005, the budget spend was £112,000 and there was a committed spend of £242,000 (total spend of £354,000). These figures do not include the value of grants that have been offered but not yet accepted (£161,000), or the value of estimated grants in the pipeline (£1,088,000).
- 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.

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 The contract for the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment is due for renewal. Following discussion with Legal Services, an open tendering approach is proposed. The existing contract has been extended until 31 December 2005 which will allow adequate time for the process to be administered.
- 4.3 The proposed deletion of Store Manager (AP1) and creation of Administrative Assistant (AP1) will have no additional financial implications as all costs can be met within the existing budget.

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 2005/6 on a non recurring basis,
 - (iii) note the likelihood of a further £300,483 being allocated from the Scottish Executive to the Council and the NHS for joint service improvements in 2005/06,
 - (iv) approve the commencement of open tendering in respect of the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment,
 - (v) approve the deletion of the post Store Manager (AP1)
 - (vi) approve the creation of the post of Administrative Assistant (AP1),

- (vii) remit this to Policy and Resources (Personnel Sub) Committee for their consideration,
- (viii) and otherwise note the content of this report.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
2 August 2005

For further information on this report please contact Susan Taylor, Manager (Adult Services) on telephone 01698- 332177 or Jamie McDermott, Senior Officer – Independent Living Services on telephone 01698 332055.