

25

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 27 October 2005	Ref: BM/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.

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, including the provision of equipment for people who have a sensory impairment have now been integrated into each of the Area Teams. Work is ongoing to support key staff within the Area Teams with this development.
- 3.1.2 As reported at the last Committee, the Scottish Executive has indicated that an additional £5m will be available for equipment and adaptations across Scotland and 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, the outcome which will be confirmed at a future Committee.
- 3.1.3 Work has been ongoing to investigate options for an Integrated Equipment and Adaptations Service in North Lanarkshire.

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
24 Jun 05	2451	2413	557
22 Jul 05	1868	2158	388
19 Aug 05	2171	2342	268
16 Sep 05	2143	2677	222

- 3.2.2 In August 2004 the Joint Partnership Board of the Joint Equipment Service put arrangements in place to employ three additional Store Operative / Driver posts (GS1/2). This was in response to a significant backlog for the delivery, uplift and cleaning of equipment. This was funded within the existing service budget and approved at Social Work Committee on 26 August 2004.
- 3.2.3 The these posts continue to be filled on a temporary basis in order to prevent a backlog arising and which has further resulted in significant service improvements at the Joint Equipment Service. This has been evidenced by:
- 80% of standard stock is now delivered within 7 days compared with only 50% at January 2005
 - An increase in the number of pieces of equipment which are being cleaned and reissued
 - Successful management of additional workload including assisted living technology, equipment for people with a sensory impairment, and equipment purchased on behalf of the Education Department.
- 3.2.4 Continued funding of these posts is required to maintain the current service level at the Joint Equipment Service. Costs for these posts continue to be subsumed within existing budgets.
- 3.2.5 Running costs for the Joint Equipment Service, including SAIL, have been subject to a period of discounted rates from Housing and Property Services. This was due to the refurbishment of the buildings being largely met within Social Work budgets. However, this discount period has come to an end and the full rent/insurance costs apply. Funding for these additional costs are currently being explored through other sources.

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 Major Equipment 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. At 14 September 2005, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2005/6 was £940,328. There was an additional committed spend of £467,007 (total spend £1,407,335). Based on the above total spend (actual and committed), it is projected that spending will be in line with budget at the end of 2005/2006.
- 3.3.3. An open tendering process is currently being undertaken to secure a future contract for the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment. The existing contract will be extended to 31 March 2006 to allow this process to be concluded to the highest standard.

3.4 **Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)**

- 3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2005/6 is £2,758,000. At 31 August 2005, the committed spend was £1,365,526.
- 3.4.2 The number of people waiting for an adaptation at 31 August 2005 was:

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
5	25 – 30	30,800
18	20 – 24	96,850
58	15 – 19	205,500
43	10 – 14	322,850
124	Total	656,000

3.4.3 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants for 2005/6 is £950,000.

3.4.4 At 31 August 2005, the budget spend was £209,000 and there was a committed spend of £282,000 (total spend of £491,000). These figures do not include the value of grants that have been offered but not yet accepted (£160,000), or the value of estimated grants in the pipeline (£1,379,000). As a result, service users who have scored 18 points or above on the priority scoring system are having their HIG application processed.

4. Financial/Personnel/Legal/Policy Implications

- 4.1 The approach to the provision of equipment and adaptations in North Lanarkshire is consistent with legislation and national policy.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The costs for the three additional temporary Store Operative / Driver (GS1/2) posts be met from within the stores total budget to the end of the financial year.

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; and
 - (iii) otherwise note the content of this report.



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10 October 2005

For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development Manager on telephone 01698- 332069 or Jamie McDermott, Senior Officer – Independent Living Services on telephone 01698 332055.