

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE | Subject: REPORT OF MEMBER / OFFICER REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT | |
| From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK | | |
| Date: 12 JANUARY 2006 | Ref: RM/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 A range of training opportunities have been developed for assessment and care management staff in relation to Assisted Living Technology. This will ensure that the use of Assisted Living Technology is maximised to support the achievement of person-centred outcomes. This has involved the identification of practitioners who will lead on this area of work in an advisory capacity to ensure a co-ordinated approach to assessment and provision.
- 3.1.2 The Scottish Executive has confirmed that a one off payment of £300,483 will be allocated in North Lanarkshire across Social Work, Housing and Property Services and NHS Lanarkshire. The additional funding will be used across agencies to address unmet need. This one off payment will be allocated at the end of this financial year and an audit trail will require to be developed and agreed with the Scottish Executive.
- 3.1.3 Work has been ongoing, and a range of options has been identified, for the creation of an integrated Equipment & Adaptations Service across the Council. At the request of the Directors of Social Work and Housing and Property Services, a group of senior officers from both departments has been formed to consider these proposals further. Progress in this area will be presented for consideration at a future Committee.
- 3.1.4 The Scottish Executive is currently reviewing the policy guidance in relation to the provision of Equipment & Adaptations. A senior officer from this authority is represented as part of the 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:

| PERIOD | REFERRALS | DELIVERIES | UPLIFTS |
|------------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 19 Aug 05 | 2171 | 2342 | 268 |
| 16 Sept 05 | 2143 | 2677 | 222 |
| 14 Oct 05 | 1906 | 2188 | 212 |
| 11 Nov 05 | 2184 | 2497 | 256 |

3.2.2 Delivery times for equipment have improved significantly during this year. In October 2005, 81% of equipment was delivered within seven working days. Improvements in this area have been incremental and current performance compares with 46% in January 2005 and 65% in May 2005.

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 11 November 2005, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2005/6 was £1,363,973. There was an additional committed spend of £509,781 (total spend £1,873,754). It is anticipated that the budget will be on target at the end of this financial year.

3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2005/6 is £2,758,000. At 4 November 2005, the committed spend was £2,214,012.

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

| Number of People | Points Range | Value £ |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 8 | 25 – 30 | 22,700 |
| 24 | 20 – 24 | 70,750 |
| 24 | 15 – 19 | 86,850 |
| 82 | 10 – 14 | 257,350 |
| 138 | Total | 437,650 |

- 3.4.3 Local authority tenants who are awaiting an adaptation with a priority score of 15 or above are having adaptations progressed. Work is underway to review all circumstances where adaptations have been allocated a priority of 14 or less, as many service-users in such circumstances were assessed some time ago, and their needs may have changed. Information collated from the review exercise will help inform decisions as to whether the pending adaptations continue to be appropriate to need.
- 3.4.4 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants (HIGs) for 2005/6 is £900,000.
- 3.4.5 At 31 October 2005, the budget spend was £355,000 and there was a committed spend of £199,000 (total spend of £554,000). These figures do not include the value of grants that have been offered but not yet accepted (£172,000), or the value of estimated grants in the pipeline (£1,602,000).
- 3.4.6 Currently, only service users who have scored 16 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 An open-tendering process to award the contract for the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment (including stairlifts and other lifting equipment) has commenced. The outcome of this tendering process will be presented as a future Social Work Committee for approval.

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 that an additional £300,483 will be allocated from the Scottish Executive to the Council and the NHS for joint service improvements in 2005/06, and that an audit trail will be developed and agreed with the Scottish Executive;
- (iv) note that an open tendering process in respect of the provision, servicing and maintenance of major equipment has commenced and the recommendations from this process will be presented at a future Social Work Committee for consideration and approval; and
- (v) otherwise note the content of this report



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
1 December 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.