

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PURCHASE OF COMMUNITY ALARM UNITS – TENDER APPROVAL	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date 18 MAY 2006	ReF JN/AMacN		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT/INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to tender for the purchase of 1,000 Community Alarm dispersed units.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 One of the central aims of North Lanarkshire Council is to provide flexible support at home services to assist people to remain safely within their own homes and communities. The Community Alarm Service plays a major role in providing an integrated support at home service, which is consistent with Scottish Executive directives, best value principles, and the Council's Performance Plans and Service Improvement Plans.
- 2.2 The service is available to individuals and families from all care groups, and provides a range of outcomes to suit the circumstances of service users. An example of such flexible usage is demonstrated by a recently introduced joint initiative with Strathclyde Police, where occasions of domestic violence occur. For older people, individuals aged 75 years and over can receive the community alarm service on request, while other users receive the service following assessment of need.
- 2.3 As a result of the awareness raising and publicising initiatives there has been an increased demand for support through the Community Alarm Service, with an average of 65 new referrals being received each month.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1. The Community Alarm Service currently has 10,132 service users. This is recognised as one of the highest levels of provision in Scotland. The number of dispersed alarm units requires to be further increased to ensure the service continues to timeously provide support to all care groups, particularly individuals being discharged from hospital.
- 3.2. This, together with the need to replace older alarm units that have been decommissioned through wear and tear or obsolescence, requires a further supply of dispersed units to be purchased. It is anticipated some 500 existing alarm units will require to be replaced within the next 12 months.

4. TENDERS

- 4.1. All UK based manufacturers and suppliers of community Alarm Dispersed Units will be invited to tender. The Tender Specification will be prepared in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders. In determining the outcome of the tender process, factors to be considered will include compatibility with existing response centre equipment, reliability, past experience of products, after sales service and price.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The cost of purchasing 1,000 units will be met from existing resources within the Community Alarm Service budget for 2006-07.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Committee is asked to give approval to proceed with the tender arrangements specified above.



Jim Dickie
Director of Social Work
24 April 2006

For further information on this report please contact Jim Nisbet Manager Older Peoples Services tel: 01698 332031