

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT	
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK			
Date: 18 MAY 2006	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 As part of the Joint Equipment Service's remit, provision of major equipment is managed under a measured term contract. A tendering exercise for the award of contracts relating to this area of work for 2006 - 2009 was concluded, and recommendations approved at Social Work Committee on 9 March 2006. Contracts are currently being finalised with the successful independent sector organisations.
- 3.1.2 The Scottish Executive allocated an additional £5m to be used for equipment and adaptations across Scotland in 2005/2006. A one-off payment of £300,483 was allocated in North Lanarkshire across Social Work, Housing and Property Services and NHS Lanarkshire. The additional funding was used to address a number of issues including:
 - Unmet need for home adaptations
 - Provision of equipment for people as part of a rehabilitation programme following hip replacement
 - IT system development at the Joint Equipment Service
- 3.1.3 Work has been ongoing to evaluate options for an integrated equipment and adaptations service in North Lanarkshire. Officers from Housing and Property Services will now attend the Joint Partnership Board of the Joint Equipment Services to assist in providing an integrated monitoring function.
- 3.1.4 Training in relation to Single Shared Assessment continues to be delivered to a range of staff across Social Work and NHS Lanarkshire. This continues to increase the number of assessors who are able to access equipment and adaptations.

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
6 Jan 06	1532	1852	144
3 Feb 06	2359	2360	173
6 Mar 06	2671	2897	211
31 Mar 06	2329	3368	190

3.2.2 Performance information highlights significant service improvements at the Joint Equipment Service including:

- 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

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

3.3.1. The 2005/6 budget for Equipment and Minor Adaptations was £1,715,060 (this included £200,000 for Service and Maintenance via the Major Equipment Contract and £22,300 for Hearing Impairment Equipment). This was uplifted by a non-recurring amount of £764,000 (approved by Council on 10th February 2005). This took the total budget for 2005/6 to £2,479,060.

3.3.2. At 31 March 2006, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2005/6 was £1,898,018. There was an additional committed spend of £576,627 (total spend £2,474,645).

3.3.3. The 2006/2007 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 was uplifted by a non-recurring amount of £750,000 (approved by Council on 9 February 2006). This takes the total budget for 2006/2007 to £2,465,060. Expenditure during 2006/2007 will be reported to Committee in the normal manner.

3.3.4. The Joint Equipment Service continues to process 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) with a budget of £100,000 for 2006/2007.

3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2005/6 was £2,758,000. At 31 March 2006, the committed spend was £2,670,074.

3.4.2 The number of people waiting for an adaptation at 31 March 2006 was:

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
7	25 – 30	29,000
69	20 – 24	223,800
86	15 – 19	284,200
84	10 – 14	274,100
246	10 – 30	811,100

3.4.3 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2006/2007 is £2,758,000. Expenditure during 2006/2007 will be reported to Committee in the normal manner.

3.4.4 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants for 2005/6 was £1,020,000.

3.4.5 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via the Home Improvement Grants for 2006/7 has yet to be determined by the Housing and Technical Services Committee.

3.4.6 At 1 April 2006, the committed spend for private sector adaptations was £193,000 with a further £285,000 for grants that have been offered but not yet accepted.

3.4.7 The value of estimated grant expenditure in the pipeline is £1,500,000. As a result, service users who have scored 15 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.

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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24 April 2006

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