

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: DEVELOPMENT OF ASSISTED LIVING TECHNOLOGY IN NORTH LANARKSHIRE
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 AUGUST 2006	Ref: RM/NS	

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This report advises Committee on the growing use of assisted living technology (ALT) in North Lanarkshire, to help vulnerable people remain in their own homes. This technology is known by a variety of other terms, including telecare and smart or assistive technology.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 North Lanarkshire has a history of providing community alarms for older people (and some people with a significant disability), to enable them to summon assistance in the event of a crisis e.g. becoming very unwell, having a fall etc. The technology has evolved to the extent that an alarm can be worn on the wrist or as a pendant.
- 2.2 The further development of ALT identifies the need for assistance where the individual hasn't recognised such a need e.g. gas being left unlit, water taps left running, an outside door being opened during the night etc. This means it can be of use to people with significant degrees of dementia or cognitive impairment, who may not be able to activate community alarms. Sensors are used to alert appropriate staff or carers identify the need for assistance. Rapid response is provided through mobile support staff at the Merrystone Care Base and some care providers.
- 2.3 In April 2003 Social Work secured a Home Safety Modernisation Grant from the Department of Trade and Industry. This allowed the department to pilot ALT in different situations. The success of the work facilitated the securing of additional funding through Supporting People monies.
- 2.4 To ensure a balanced approach to using technology, a protocol and staff guidance was produced for using ALT. A training programme was also delivered to ensure that assessments are needs led, that practical solutions were considered, that risk was assessed, privacy was ensured and minimum intrusion occurs. Community Care Seniors are required to agree and authorise any care plan and intervention using ALT.

## 3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 There are currently over 10,000 people with community alarms in North Lanarkshire. In relation to ALT, numbers are much smaller but growing. Appendix 1 sets out the range and scale of equipment in use to date. ALT has excellent potential to support vulnerable people who wish to remain in their own homes but may otherwise have entered institutional care. It is intended to increase the use of ALT to achieve this end.

#### 4. FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In 2005/6 expenditure on the provision of directly supplied pieces of equipment in relation to ALT was £32,000. Additional costs for training, administration, delivery and fitting etc. were met against other cost headings. Demand for such equipment is anticipated as the potential for the technology to support people in their own home is further realised.
- 4.2 On 15 August, at the National Telecare Launch, the Minister for Communities announced plans for an £8m fund to expand the use of this technology. Details are expected to be made available shortly.

#### 5. RECOMMENDATION

Committee is asked to:

- (i) endorse the continued use of assisted living technology and;
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.



**Jim Dickie**  
**Director of Social Work**  
**8 August 2006**

*For further information on this report please contact Bobby Miller, Development & Adult Manager on telephone 01698 332069.*

**Appendix 1**

EQUIPMENT	
Magnetic Door Catches	<b>37</b>
Radio Carbon Monoxide Detector	<b>7</b>
Passive Infrared Detector	<b>8</b>
Sensorium Passive Infrared Detector	<b>29</b>
Timer	<b>1</b>
Sensorium SRXI Single Zone Receiver	<b>44</b>
Sensorium Power Adapter	<b>37</b>
Personnel Alarm	<b>3</b>
Door Monitor Transmitter	<b>23</b>
Sensorium Message Lights	<b>6</b>
Unit for Bed/Chair Occupancy Sensor	<b>5</b>
Digital Epilepsy Monitor	<b>19</b>
Sensorium Pager System	<b>7</b>
Power Supply (plug in)	<b>2</b>
Key Switch	<b>4</b>
Sensorium System Case	<b>4</b>
Sensorium Bed Monitor	<b>3</b>
Control Station Key Switch	<b>19</b>
Time Clock (plug in)	<b>1</b>
Voice Annunicator	<b>2</b>
Back Box	<b>1</b>
Four Channel Radio and Sounder	<b>1</b>
Digital Speech Dialler	<b>1</b>
Property Exit Sensor	<b>1</b>
Vibrating Pillow Pad	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266</b>