

**REPORT**

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: REPORT OF MEMBER / OFFICER REVIEW OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 24 AUGUST 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.
- 3.1.2 Work is ongoing within the Joint Equipment Service to identify the resources required to ensure compliance in relation to Portable Appliance Testing (PAT), and the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER). This is consistent with the recommendations of the Audit Scotland Report, Adapting to the Future (August 2004).
- 3.1.3 The Institute of Electrical Engineers recommends that all electrical appliances used by the public should be tested once per year. This would result in a significant increase in workload for the Joint Equipment Service, as all electrical equipment on loan would require to be tested.
- 3.1.4 The relevant contractor currently tests equipment provided under the Major Equipment Contract, however equipment issued directly from the Joint Equipment Service is not, e.g. bathlifts and riser-recliner chairs.
- 3.1.5 Proposals will be developed for ensuring full compliance with the above guidance and will be presented at next Committee.

**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
28 April 06	2284	2696	213
26 May 06	2456	2817	374
23 June 06	2425	2527	253
21 July 06	2358	2497	304

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

- Over 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 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.

3.3.2. At 21 July 2006, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2006/7 was £899,892. There was an additional committed spend of £589,866 (total spend £1,489,758).

3.3.3. The Joint Equipment Service continues to process equipment provided to children with additional 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. At 21 July 2006, spend from this budget was £9,247. There was an additional committed spend of £10,386 (total spend £16,633).

### 3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2006/2007 is £2,758,000. At 30 June 2006, the committed spend was £1,004,705.

3.4.2 The number of people waiting for an adaptation at 30 June 2006 was:

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
15	25 – 30	53,300
98	20 – 24	305,500
179	15 – 19	595,470
104	10 – 14	372,900
<b>396</b>	<b>10 – 30</b>	<b>1,327,170</b>

3.4.3 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via Home Improvement Grants for 2006/7 is £800,000.

- 3.4.4 At 1 July 2006, the committed spend for private sector adaptations was £415,000 further £384,000 for grants that have been offered but not yet accepted.
- 3.4.5 The value of estimated grant expenditure in the pipeline is £1,200,000. As a result, service users who have scored 15 points or above on the priority scoring system are having their Home Improvement Grant application processed.
- 3.4.6 Due to the anticipated shortfall in budget for Home Improvement Grants, it is likely that the priority level required for grants to be processed will be raised in the near future. This will ensure that resources are targets at individuals with greatest need.
- 3.4.7 It should be noted that the difficulties in meeting assessed needs for private adaptations was the subject of a separate report to the Housing and Technical Services Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004 which was also remitted to Social Work Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

#### 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
  - (iii) note that work is ongoing to identify the resource requirements to ensure compliance with health and safety and associated guidance; and
  - (iv) otherwise note the content of this report



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**24 April 2006**

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