

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE	Subject: PROVISION OF EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS : PROGRESS REPORT
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK	
Date: 26 OCTOBER 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 Work is being undertaken 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).
- 3.1.2 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.
- 3.1.3 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, hospital beds, mattress elevators and riser-recliner chairs.
- 3.1.4 It is estimated that there are at least 7000 items which would require an annual inspection in order to comply with above regulations and guidance. Proposals for the management of these requirements will be brought forward to a future Committee.
- 3.1.5 At a ministerial launch on 15 August 2006, Malcolm Chisholm, MSP announced that £8,000,000 would be made available to NHS and local authority partners across Scotland for developments in Telecare (otherwise known as assistive technology).
- 3.1.6 The funding will be allocated on a formula basis, and the amount available for use in North Lanarkshire, on a non-recurring basis, is £452,127. 30% will be available in 2006/7 and the remaining 70% in 2007/8. It is anticipated that the additional funding will be used to build upon the developments already achieved in North Lanarkshire, as reported to a recent 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
26 May 06	2456	2817	374
23 June 06	2530	2781	333
21 July 06	2538	2460	356
18 Aug 06	2533	2703	367

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

- Over 85% 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 18 September 2006, spend on equipment and minor adaptations for 2006/7 was £1,405,522. There was an additional committed spend of £567,068 (total spend £1,972,590).

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. 18 September 2006, spend from this budget was £19,202. There was an additional committed spend of £10,386 (total spend £29,588).

3.4 Major Adaptations (Housing Provision)

3.4.1 The budget provision for local authority properties for 2006/2007 is £2,858,000. At 31 August 2006, the committed spend was £1,294,696. This does not include service-users who are awaiting an adaptation.

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

Number of People	Points Range	Value £
23	25 – 30	£129,500
79	20 – 24	£254,700
228	15 – 19	£748,260
100	10 – 14	£339,700
430	10 – 30	£1,472,160

- 3.4.3 The budget provision for private sector adaptations via Private Sector Housing Grants for 2006/7 is £850,000 (which includes £50,000 top-up funding)
- 3.4.4 At 1st September 2006, the total committed spend for private sector adaptations was £851,000 and a further £300,000 grants have been offered but not yet accepted. It should be noted that although funding has been committed or offered, not all works will be undertaken or completed in the current year and some of the above will carry forward into next year.
- 3.4.5 The total potential spend (not including future applications) is £1,150,000. As a result, only service users who have scored 18 points or above on the priority scoring system are having their Home Improvement Grant application processed. This will ensure that resources are targets at individuals with greatest need.
- 3.4.6 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 9th August 2004 which was also remitted to Social Work Committee on 28th 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; and
 - (iii) other-wise note the content of this report



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24 September 2006

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