

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 25 JANUARY 2007**

### **TELECARE SUBMISSION**

#### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform Committee of a submission for funding for Telecare Services for older people in East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Telecare/Telehealth is a range of technology which assists people to remain independent and alerts carers to the need for support or emergency assistance.
- 2.2 The Scottish Executive has made available £8 million to promote the use of Telecare in community care packages to support vulnerable people to stay at home. Each local Joint Future Partnership across Scotland has been invited to submit a bid based on locality need and planned developments.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Council has a well established Community Alarm Service; 3000 people now receive the service the majority of whom are older people. There are an additional 78 people who currently receive a Telecare service which includes additional technology monitoring gas and fire hazard, exit from the home at unexpected times and falls. The technology has continued to develop and a wide range of devices are now available which can monitor people's activities throughout the day including taking medication.
- 2.4 If the submission is agreed, Telecare would be accessed through a needs led assessment. It is not a substitute for care, more that it enhances the opportunities to ensure someone is safe in an unintrusive manner. Nonetheless, these supports can reduce the level of direct staff supervision required as appropriate information can be obtained through the Telecare service. The response to call-outs required through Telecare monitoring is currently serviced through the community alarms personal carer mobile team.

#### **3. PROPOSALS FOR USE OF RESOURCES**

- 3.1 If the proposal is successful the funding will be used for installation costs, equipment and hardware maintenance costs.
- 3.2 The resources will also be used to replace / upgrade Warden Call systems at 5 Sheltered Housing Units which will include capability to fit and use SMART Sensors as required

- 3.2.1 They will also provide a package of 120 Dispersed Alarm Units to support management of assessed risk for clients associated with independent living. These would be tailored systems for individual clients and would link in with work being done within Sheltered Housing Units.
- 3.2.2 30 Wrist Care Units will be used as a Joint Social Alarm and Tele Health Monitoring system which will allow staff to monitor Wellness Data for particular clients and to capture early changes in need. This type of equipment will also provide a means to monitor sleep / wakening patterns and the overall wellbeing of older people with dementia, people with chronic illnesses and will support early hospital discharge where appropriate.
- 3.3 In addition we will develop accommodation in our core sheltered housing units which will be fully equipped as SMART homes. Specific accommodation has the potential to be developed for vulnerable older people particularly people with dementia. This will enable service users to maintain independence and have an individually tailored telecare / telehealth package.

#### **4. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This bid has identified several possible areas for development. If we are successful this would allow us to enhance considerably the current level of service to older vulnerable people living in the community and provide the infrastructure to extend this service to other client groups. The bid, if successful, will enhance the Strategic Direction of Older People's Services previously agreed at Special Social Work Committee on 20 April 2006.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 If successful these proposals will be funded by a Grant from the Scottish Executive

#### **6. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Proposals within this submission support the Improving Health, Improving Opportunities Eliminating Poverty and Community Safety Themes of the community plan

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 Social Work Committee is asked to:-
  - (i) note the contents of this report

**Graham Short**  
**Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**AF/EF**  
**16 January 2007**  
**Enc (0)**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- (1) Telecare Development Programme Guidance September 2006 – Joint Improvement Team.
- (2) Telecare Submission November 2006.

For further information on this report please contact:-  
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**IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: JACKIE DONNELLY**