

# EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

## SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 3 NOVEMBER 2005

### RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE – EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS

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

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee of additional one off allocation of monies from the Scottish Executive to local authorities to support improvements in the equipment and adaptations service.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Ministers are keen to promote the significant and positive effect that equipment and adaptations can have on people's lives and those of their carers. However, they are also aware of shortcomings in existing arrangements across health, housing and social care as highlighted in recent reports.
- 2.2 In June 2005, the Scottish Executive Health Department wrote to Directors of Social Work announcing additional resources for equipment and adaptations in this financial year, subject to approval of a joint statement of proposed use by key agencies.
- 2.3 Local Partnerships involving Social Work, Housing and Health were invited to submit proposals to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.4 The additional funding comes as a capital grant and will be subject to an audit at year end.
- 2.5 There are five options for use of this additional funding, namely,
- Addressing any waiting lists of imminent need
  - Supporting joined up working
  - Supporting joint delivery and collection initiatives
  - Funding equipment and other materials to be used in equipment and adaptation advice, information and demonstration
  - Providing cost effective equipment and adaptation packages that consider longer term needs of the individual and the impact on other care services

#### 3. IMPLICATIONS FOR EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.1 Following a successful bid East Ayrshire Council have been awarded £126,238 additional resources.
- 3.2 Arrangements have been put in place in respect of setting up an internal capital code to monitor expenditure for future audit purposes.

3.3 Over recent years identified need for equipment and adaptations has exceeded the recurring available resources. The shortfall has been met by non-recurring funding from both the Local Authority and Health. As a result we continue to meet Local Improvement Targets for the number of people waiting for equipment and adaptations.

3.4 The proposal for spend of this allocation, agreed by all partners is as follows:

- £30, 000 to address waiting list for unmet need
- £69, 000 to support current joined up working (to provide ramp access where NHS provision care requires this)
- £17, 238 for equipment that supports joined up working (provision of specialist equipment such as beds, hoists etc for hospital discharge to home or care home)
- £10, 000 for sensory impairment equipment for demonstration and information

#### **4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Nil

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

5.1 Spend of this additional allocations will be audited by the Scottish Executive. A new Capital Code is in place for expenditure of this allocation to be charged against.

5.2 The funds will support the Council to meet additional identified needs for 2005/06.

#### **6. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Nil

#### **7. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The proposals at Section 3.4 directly support the Improving Health and Improving Opportunities themes of the Community Plan.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 It is recommended that at Committee:

- (i) note the contents of this report.

**John Mulgrew**  
**Executive Director of Educational & Social Services**  
**11 October 2005**  
**Enc (0)**

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Nil

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