

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 7 SEPTEMBER 2006**

### **COMMUNITY SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH JOINT EQUIPMENT RESOURCE**

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

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

- 1.1 To provide Committee with information regarding the development of a Joint Equipment store for aids to daily living in East Ayrshire.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 East Ayrshire Council Social Work Service currently provide a technician service which delivers the following:
- Fitting of minor adaptations
  - Delivery of equipment
  - Technical advice
  - Cleaning and storage of equipment
- 2.2 There are currently four members of staff employed within the technician service.
- 2.3 Historically the technician service operated out of four small storage units, two located in Kilmarnock, the other two in Auchinleck.
- 2.4 Over recent years, in line with development of a community care infrastructure, the technician service has expanded beyond supporting the work of community occupational therapy staff to providing a support service for sensory impairment equipment and moving and handling staff.

#### **3. CURRENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The dispersed nature of the four storage sites and plans to extend the provision of jointly resourced equipment with NHS Ayrshire & Arran required the provision of a more suitable storage facility.
- 3.2 Plans to develop an integrated Pan Ayrshire system to enable improved access to equipment and adaptations for the public also required a new facility with the potential for installation of an integrated computer system.
- 3.3 The Audit Scotland Report (Adapting to the Future August 2004) included recommendations for the cleaning and recycling of equipment. This added to the requirement for a new store with the capacity to accommodate the need

for recycled equipment to be cleaned to a high standard in order to address the risk of cross infection.

#### **4. SERVICE DEVELOPMENT**

- 4.1 A suitable facility to accommodate the required service improvement was identified in Southhook Road, Kilmarnock.

The new resource has been operational since July 2006. A small, satellite store has been retained in Auchinleck for access by staff in that area. This satellite is intended ultimately to be part of the new facility at Affleck House.

- 4.2 The new store provides a resource for health and social work occupational therapy staff as well as providing essential storage for home care and community alarms equipment. The jointly accessible IT system is in the process of implementation across East Ayrshire, the other Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

#### **5. POLICY/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The provision of a new store responds to the Joint Future Agenda and the Audit Scotland report.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Rationalisation of the previously dispersed service has enabled the service improvement to be developed within existing resources. The potential for recycling of equipment and joint working across agencies provides further opportunities to ensure effective use of resources to meet needs of vulnerable people.

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

- 7.1 The development of the store is in line with the Improving Opportunities, Improving Community Safety and Improving Health Themes of the Community Plan.

#### **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Graham Short**  
**Executive Director of Educational and Social Services**  
**AF/LF**  
**7 September 2006**  
**Enc (0)**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- (1) Audit Scotland Report (Adapting to the Future) August 2004

- (2) Equipped for Inclusion – Report on the Strategy Forum : Equipment & Adaptations 2003

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