

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE: 1 FEBRUARY 2001

REPORT ON ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY CARE (EQUIPMENT & ADAPTATIONS)

Report by the Director of Educational & Social Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To advise Committee of the additional funding received by East Ayrshire Council from the Scottish Executive to target the provision of equipment and adaptations.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Minister of Health and Community Care announced on 5th October that an additional £5 million was being made available during this financial year to local authorities to provide equipment and housing adaptations to assist in reducing admissions to hospital and to facilitate early discharge from hospital.
- 2.2 This funding has been provided on a non-recurring basis, following the work undertaken by the Joint Future Group. This group was established by the Minister for Health and Community Care with the purpose of establishing joint approaches between Community Care Agencies to ensure that services are delivered effectively. East Ayrshire' Council's allocation was dependent upon the resource being used to facilitate hospital discharge or to prevent admission into care. In addition, the resources could be used to enhance Community Care services subject to discussion with senior officers from Health Care Agencies. The Council was also required to report back to the Scottish Executive by the 15th of January on how the resources were utilised and the contact details of the liaison officers from the Agencies consulted.
- 2.3 East Ayrshire Council reviewed the Adaptations Service in 1998 and a range of service improvements have since been implemented. However, referrals to the equipment and adaptations service remain high and the additional funding to East Ayrshire Council is welcomed to address the current demands on the service.
- 2.4 The provision of equipment and adaptations such as stairlifts and showers often assists an individual to re-establish independence, improve safety and can provide significant assistance to carers, often alleviating some of the care needs of an individual.

3. Implementation

3.1 The allocation to East Ayrshire Council of £121,463.00 enhanced the equipment and adaptations service as follows:

(i) ***Action to further reduce waiting times for the provision of adaptations***

133 adaptations have been ordered as a result of the additional monies. The majority of people who will receive a service are currently classed as category A, however some category B work was also processed. Category A indicates that the need for the work is “urgent”, this would include people who are terminally ill, people who have a history of falls and where the proposed work will improve immediate safety. Category B indicates “High Priority”, where the proposed work will have a positive impact to the individual, carer or parent in the areas of independence, managing pain or reducing stress.

Of the people receiving this service, 73% were older people with the average age being 67 years.

(ii) ***Equipment to Facilitate Hospital Discharge***

£16,463 was allocated to meet the requirement for specialist equipment, which assists people to be discharged safely from hospital or enables individuals to remain at home. This amount covers all assessed outstanding work for equipment to date and will provide some stock to respond to urgent work over the remaining winter months.

(iii) ***Improving Community Care Assessment Timescales***

Over recent months the Occupational Therapy Department, has experienced some staffing difficulties due to staff sickness. As a result of this waiting times for assessment have increased. The additional funding has enabled the Department to provide additional hours for Occupational Therapy Assistants and Technical staff to respond to non-complex referrals. It is anticipated that from 8th January until 31st March 2001 additional staffing time will assist the department to reduce waiting times for assessment to an acceptable level.

3.2 Table 1 details the expenditure breakdown

TABLE 1	
Staffing Costs	£5,000.00
Equipment Costs	£16,463.00
Adaptations Costs	£100,000.00
Total	£121,463.00

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The additional funding has been determined using the GAE formulae for Community Care, and will be included in the March 2001 revenue support grant payment. Therefore, the additional funds noted in Section 3.2 should be added to the revenue budget 2000/01.

5. Policy Implications

5.1 The Council's charging policy will apply and revenue in the region of £2,500 is expected to be generated.

6. Legal Implications

6.1 Nil

7. Recommendation

7.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) agrees that the Head of Social Work will provide conformation to the Scottish Executive on the allocation and liaison arrangements undertaken by the Council;
- (ii) agrees the additional allocation to the revenue budget 2000/01; and
- (iii) otherwise notes the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational & Social Services
8 January 2001
ST/MG/JD

LIST OF BACKGROUND REPORTS

- (i) Modernising Community Care – An Action Plan – Committee Date 24/11/98
- (ii) Scottish Executive Joint Future Group – “Making it Work Together”

Further information can be obtained from Susan Taylor, Service Unit Manager (Adults), Community Care Team on 01563 576931 or Morven Gemmill, Manager (Independent Living Services) on 01563 554889.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: MORVEN GEMMILL

AGENDA