

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee 13 September 2006

Subject: Supporting People Funded Services: Unmet Need

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to committee regarding levels of unmet need for services funded through Supporting People Grant.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Social Justice Committee of 12 April 2006 it was agreed that a report would be provided to this Committee giving details of numbers of people identified as having an unmet need for services funded through Supporting People Grant.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 There are two different definitions of unmet need which need to be considered as follows:
- (i) Unmet need for people who have been assessed as needing a service and
 - (ii) An assessment of potential unmet need based on the population of West Dunbartonshire and expected need based on prevalence rates.
- 3.2 The table below shows, for each of the Supporting People service types, the level of unmet need identified.

Service Type	Unmet Need	Comments
Older People	11	This represents people waiting for Home Care services due to resource constraints
Community Alarms	25	Normal time taken to fit alarms for new clients
Mental Health	Nil	All assessed with a need have been provided with a service
Arranging Adaptations	671	People waiting for an assessment for special needs equipment or adaptations, as the supporting people service is for the arranging of adaptations/equipment.

Physical Disability & Sensory Impairment	9	Services being arranged
Addiction	3	Services being arranged
Young People	Nil	All assessed with a need have been provided with a service
Domestic Abuse	Nil	Services are provided via Women's Aid organisations and though significant numbers of clients cannot be housed locally, due to lack of capacity, they are referred onto other agencies for assistance
Welfare Rights	Nil	There is an ongoing wait for an appointment to meet Welfare Rights officers, however this is not a waiting list and at any one time there may be around 10 people with an appointment in the future
Learning Disability	8	Services being arranged

For all services noted above, except for Arranging Adaptations, the unmet need is a need identified following an assessment. For Arranging Adaptations the unmet need is the number of people waiting for an assessment.

- 3.3 The table below shows the potential for unmet need based on prevalence statistics and current service provision. It is important to note that identifying a vulnerable group of people and their possible need does not necessarily mean that they would require a service following assessment.

Service Type	Prevalence Measure Used	Potential Unmet Need
Older People	Rowntree Foundation research on Poverty Among Older People in Great Britain – formulae for identifying potential need. Indicates a potential need for 5,400 older people. Current service is 5,158	242
Community Alarms	All older people who have a potential need (as identified above) may need a community alarm. Based on the figures above this is 5,400. However provision is based on assessed need and at present around 1,600 older people have a community alarm. Some clients with physical disabilities are also provided with such alarms if this is	3,800 based on potential for older people

	felt necessary following assessment.	
Mental Health	Based on Department of Health Survey, NHS Information Services Division statistics and Mind (National Assoc. for Mental Health) prevalence studies. Indicates a potential need of 5,800 with 280 severe. Current provision is 275.	None*
Arranging Adaptations	Based on census in 2001 of people who indicated they felt that they had some form of physical disability. Indicated a potential need of 11,000. Estimates of more severe physical disability are at 3,700. Current service provision is to 2,800.	900
Physical Disability/ Sensory Impairment	Currently around 550 registered blind/partially sighted and around 500 deaf or hearing impaired residents in WDC area. Total potential need of 1,050. Currently provide a service to 440.	610
Addiction	Glasgow University research indicates a need in WDC area relating to 1,185 people using drugs. There is little research on people with alcohol problems, but this is thought to exceed those with drugs issues. If assumed at the same level of drug users this would give a likely minimum potential need of 2,370. Current service provision is to 503.	1,867
Young People	The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) research suggests that 10% of Homeless people are young people. Other research (Biehal et al) indicates that up to 20% of care leavers experience homelessness within 2 years of leaving care. There is therefore a potential need of around 12 in a 2 year period if approximately 30 young people leave care each year. At present all such young people who have such a need identified in West Dunbartonshire are provided with a service. It is possible that there is some unmet need, but this is difficult to quantify.	Not measurable
Domestic Abuse	British Medical Association research suggests that 25% of women will experience some form of domestic abuse during their lifetime. Based on a female population in WDC of 38,984 (WDC Social Economic Profile) this equates to	Not measurable

	around 9,750. However the implied service need is not all required simultaneously. Women's Aid organisations in Dumbarton and Clydebank indicate that they "turn away" people seeking refuge each year (per WDDAP statistics) and for 2004/05 this was reported as being 1,227 women and children. However while these clients are turned away they are re-directed to other Women's Aid or other organisations who can assist.	
Welfare Rights	Potentially everyone could have a need for such a service at some point in their lives. However based on the population in WDC and the numbers of people receiving some form of benefit (from the WD Social and Economic Profile 2005/06) there were 24,245 people in receipt of the main benefits in 2004. Not all of these people necessarily need welfare rights advice – or all at the same time, but a significant proportion would benefit from welfare rights advice at certain times in their lifetime. In 2005/06 the Welfare Rights Service assisted clients process over 5,000 benefits claims.	Not measurable
Learning Disability	Scottish Executive research used for "The Same As You". Indicates a potential need of 369. Current service provision is to 500.	None*

* Note: in relation to Mental Health and Learning Disability we currently provide services to more people than is indicated by prevalence measures.

- 3.4 It should be noted that the above service types are funded by Council core budget as well as Supporting People Grant. Supporting People service need is not recorded separately from core service need.

4. Personnel Implications

- 4.1 There are no personnel implications.

5. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are currently no financial implications.

6. Recommendation

6.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Background Papers:	Agenda Item 6 – Social Justice Committee 12 April 2006: Supporting People S.E. Stat. Bulletin
Wards Affected:	All