

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 13 June 2007

Subject: Update on Scottish Executive Telecare Development Funding

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To provide the Social Justice Committee with details of West Dunbartonshire Council's bid for telecare funding from the Scottish Executive.
- 1.2** To update the Social Justice Committee on the development of the telecare funding for older people.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Scottish Executive invited local authority partnerships to place a bid for telecare development funding to be used for older people within the local authority area.
- 2.2** The funding available to the West Dunbartonshire Council in respect of the bid will be £142,429 and a bid for this funding was made.
- 2.3** Telecare is currently in use within the West Dunbartonshire area at present. There are 10 people within the community using various forms of telecare i.e. pressure mat, smoke detectors, heat detectors.
- 2.4** Telecare was also introduced last year into eight of the nine Sheltered Housing Complexes owned and operated by West Dunbartonshire Council. All tenants within these complexes have smoke and heat detectors and there is access to fall and flood detectors if required. The smart technology was not extended to Westbridgend Sheltered Housing complex at this time due to the layout within multi-storey blocks. Options to overcome the technical issues have been assessed and the equipment is now being installed.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** West Dunbartonshire Council was notified in February 2007 that their bid for telecare funding had been successful.
- 3.2** In April 2007, £46,000 was received from the Scottish Executive. This is the first tranche of the telecare funding with the remainder to follow later in 2007.

3.3 In April 2007 West Dunbartonshire Council was required to submit second stage paperwork to the Scottish Executive. This submission detailed further the expected outcomes and efficiencies hoped to be achieved by introducing telecare into the community.

3.4 West Dunbartonshire Council intend to purchase the following equipment using the telecare funding:

Installation of Smart Technology full package into five Step-Up/Step Down flats within the sheltered housing complexes; this will include movement detectors, bed sensors, chair sensors and enuresis sensor. This will allow full assessment of the service users using this short term facility.

Ruggedised Alarms – these community alarms can be used without landline telephones and work via a mobile phone connection. This resource will be useful in emergency situations i.e. awaiting installation of a telephone, awaiting telephone repair etc.

We are also looking at purchasing a range of sensors which will assist older people to remain in the community:

- Gas Detectors;
- Bed Sensors;
- Pressure Mats;
- Enuresis Sensors;
- Chair Sensors;
- Smoke and Heat Detectors; and
- Home Free Wandering Solutions.

Mobile Assessment Packages – including movement detectors, flood, fall and smoke, and heat sensors, bed and chair monitoring equipment. Similar to the Step Up Step Down flats, these packages will allow a fuller assessment of an individual's care needs.

Home Free Wandering Solution – this is a computerised system that allows care staff within long term care homes to sensitively monitor residents whereabouts within the care home and identify any concerns, i.e. person with Alzheimers leaving the building, resident has a fall (the system identifies the exact location of the resident within the building). Staff are in discussions with service users, carers and the Care Commission about the best way to use this technology application. A risk assessment regarding the use of this system is currently in progress.

3.5 A project plan has been devised which commences in April 2007. It is anticipated that the first four months of the project will be used to establish links

with contractors, train staff, hold information briefings for assessing staff, setting up appropriate databases etc. The plan is appended to this report.

- 3.6** West Dunbartonshire Council will require to provide evidence to the Scottish Executive that the telecare funding has provided opportunities for efficiency savings to be made available to support the future of telecare within the local authority area.
- 3.7** It is anticipated that the telecare project will enable us to provide additional support to approximately 350 people throughout the period of funding. The project monitoring will investigate the effects on whether providing this support will have an impact on the number of people admitted to hospital or long-term care. It is envisaged that this support will initially be offered to older people, with possible opportunities to roll out to other client groups in the future.

The equipment will be evaluated to ascertain whether it provides additional security and safety for people living independently at home. It will also look at possible benefits for informal carers to provide reassurance that their family member/friend has additional monitoring in place which is being provided in a sensitive manner.

There will be equipment purchased to introduce assessment packages into the step up step down facilities to ensure that people receive a rehabilitation package which is going to establish the most suitable environment for them to live and avoid further hospital or long term care admissions.

The project will look at assisting to provide services to people in the community, with its purpose being to address a number of areas:

- Unnecessary hospital admissions and delayed discharges;
- Opportunities for older people to remain at home in the community;
- More comprehensive assessments for older people; and
- Impacting on outcomes and targets set via the Joint Performance and Information Assessment Framework and Local Improvement Targets.

4 Personnel Issues

- 4.1** The additional smart technology in the community may have an impact on the current staffing of the community alarm service with increased call outs. Revenue funding may have to be sought within the local authority to appropriately staff the response service for smart technology.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There are no immediate financial implications arising from the work funded from this funding stream. However, it is hoped that the pilot of the expansion of

Telecare into the Community will assist in keeping people in the Community longer, which should have a positive effect on the numbers of people who need to be accommodated in residential care settings. The effects of this are unlikely to be evident for some time, though the progress of people who receive this assistance will be monitored.

- 5.2 If call-outs to the Community Alarm Service increase significantly there may be a requirement to increase staffing levels, however it is expected that any such need will be offset by a lower cost of residential care as a higher proportion of people remain supported at home.
- 5.3 It is expected that more older people being discharged from hospital will be able to be supported at home rather than in a residential care setting. This should be a less expensive model of care. In order to assess the effectiveness of this funding, the progress of older people being discharged from hospital will need to be monitored to assess whether Telecare allowed people to be cared for at home, rather than being placed in residential care. The financial costs of both models of care will be monitored.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1 There is a risk that the use of this new technology increases demand for the Community Alarm service as more people use community alarms. This may result in a need to expand that service. Offsetting this risk is the potential for reduced demand for care in residential settings together with the potential that people coming out of hospital may be more able to be supported at home with this equipment, rather than require to be placed in residential care.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Scottish Executive funding of Telecare provides us with the opportunity to pilot the expansion of Smart Technology to a wider proportion of the older people within West Dunbartonshire.
- 7.2 It is expected that the provision of this new technology to a large number of people will allow more older people to remain supported in their own home for longer.
- 7.3 It is expected that the use of this new technology will also be of benefit to carers of the older people, as the use of the equipment may provide reassurance that their family member/friend has additional monitoring in place.
- 7.4 The effects of Telecare will require to be monitored and assessed over time. Reports on this monitoring and assessment will be presented to future meetings of this Committee.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Committee is asked to:

- a) note the progress report on the use of the Telecare funding; and
- b) instruct the Director of Social Work to provide further reports on the progress of the use of the Telecare equipment and its effect on service provision.

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Wards Affected: All wards