

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Acting Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee: 8 November 2006

Subject: Telecare Bid – Scottish Executive

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To provide members with details of the Council's bid for telecare funding from the Scottish Executive.
- 1.2** To make recommendations to Committee regarding the proposed use of the telecare funding for older people.

2. Background

- 2.1** West Dunbartonshire Council was provided with £20,000 from its health partner, Greater Glasgow Health Board, in 2003/04. This funding was used to pilot smart technology to individual older people living either within sheltered housing or in their own homes.
- 2.2** The pilot was researched and evaluated by a West Dunbartonshire Council employee as part of a Masters Degree. The research highlighted that smart technology can be of assistance to older people and helps to supplement the existing community alarm system. The research also found that it is possible that such technology can have an effect on levels of hospital admission and the use of NHS resources. Though the research was on limited numbers and may not be reflective of the whole population, it gave useful indications of the potential of such equipment.
- 2.3** In 2005 it was agreed to extend the smart technology into the tenants' houses within all nine sheltered housing complexes owned and operated by West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 2.4** All tenants within eight of the complexes have now been or are currently provided with smart sensors for smoke and heat, with appropriate tenants receiving fall and flood sensors if required.
- 2.5** The smart technology has not yet been extended to Westbridgend Sheltered Housing complex due to its layout within multi-storey blocks. Options to overcome the technical issues are currently being investigated.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** The Scottish Executive have invited local authorities, in partnership with their NHS and Community Planning Partners, to place a bid for telecare funding for older people in the local authority area. The closing date for the bid was 31 October 2006.
- 3.2** The funding identified by the Scottish Executive for West Dunbartonshire is £142,479. There is additional funding available which will be allocated separately by the Joint Improvement Team of the Scottish Executive.
- 3.3** The telecare bid requires to show that consultation has taken place with health and housing colleagues as well as users and carers of the services. To date consultation and discussion has taken place at a variety of settings: Community Care Forum, Older People's Strategy Group, Carers Strategy Group, Housing, and Community Care Planning and Implementation Partnership.
- 3.4** A bid for telecare funding has been made to the Executive on 31 October and aims to purchase the following smart technology:
- 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 sensors. This will allow full assessment of the service users using this short-term facility. It is expected that this installation will allow clients to have a fuller assessment of need while in this facility allowing a more appropriate next step, whether back to their own home or towards sheltered housing or residential care.
 - 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.
 - Monitoring Systems – which allows carers and/or staff to assess the daily risks for people suffering from Alzheimers.
 - Westbridgend Sheltered Housing – as noted at 2.5 (above) the upgrade required to install smart technology which includes additional telephones lines, additional transmitters and dispersed alarm units.
 - Assessment Packages – this will consist of four mobile packages which include a variety of sensors and will allow a more comprehensive assessment of a person's needs within their own home.
 - We are also looking at purchasing a number of various sensors, which will assist older people in the community as listed below. It is expected that using

these sensors in the community will also provide further reassurance to carers and relatives.

- Gas Detectors
 - Bed Sensors
 - Chair Sensors
 - Enuresis Sensors
 - Fall Detectors
- Home Free Wandering Solutions – to be installed and piloted within two residential units to assist with monitoring service users suffering from Alzheimers, dementia or frequent falls.

Equipment	Number	Approximate Cost
Assessment Packages – Step Up Step Down	5	£4000
Monitoring System – Sheltered	7	£7000
Monitoring Systems – Community	20	£20,000
Upgrade Westbridgend	73 tenants	£31,000
Falls Detectors	50	£5000
Emergency Response System	100	£5000
Smoke and Heat Sensors	100	£13,700
Community Alarm Upgrades	80	£10,000
Ruggedised Alarms	2	£2600
Assessment Package – Mobile Units	4	£2500
Training Requirements	Various Staff	£3385
Gas Detectors	12	£1500
Bed Detectors	12	£2640
Chair Detectors	12	£2124
Enuresis	12	£1980
Home Free Wandering Solutions	2 units	£30,000
TOTAL		£142,429

- 3.5** The Council will be monitored and evaluated throughout the two-year telecare period by the external consultants employed by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.6** West Dunbartonshire Council will require to 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. Evidence will be gathered from a number of sources using both hard and soft measures. It is envisaged that the telecare pilot will assist the Council (and it's partners) to meet targets set by the Scottish Executive e.g. Local Improvement Targets, Joint Performance Information and Assessment Framework.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1 There is no evidence that the introduction of telecare in the community will have any negative impact on current staffing levels, though the effects will be monitored.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The funding will be split between financial years 2006/07 and 2007/08. In the current financial year 30% of the successful telecare funding will be provided with the remaining 70% following in 2007/08. The funding can be carried forward from this financial year into 2007/08, if required.
- 5.2 As stated above the Scottish Executive see telecare as a means of obtaining efficiencies and want to see any efficiencies gained re-invested in service provision by further expansion of telecare to 2011.
- 5.3 There is potential for telecare to provide efficiencies if it has a positive effect on inappropriate hospital admissions and assisting people to be discharged from hospital earlier. It is also possible that it could allow clients to delay or avoid using a residential care home place. It is envisaged that such savings may not be immediately apparent, and may accrue over the medium term.
- 5.4 In order to evaluate the financial effect of telecare continued monitoring of delayed discharge, hospital admissions and placement to residential care will be monitored as a measure of successful outcomes for the project.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that Committee notes the position regarding the submission of the telecare bid to the Scottish Executive.

William W Clark
Acting Director of Social Work Services

Person to Contact: Lynne McKnight, Section Head (Home Care)
7, Bruce Street, Clydebank. Phone: (0141) 951 6166
e-mail: Lynne.McKnight@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Background papers: Telecare documentation and guidance
Telecare bid
Both are available from Lynne McKnight

Wards Affected: All