

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Director of Social Work Services

Social Justice Committee – 14 March 2007

Subject: Telecare Bid – Scottish Executive

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide members with an update regarding West Dunbartonshire Council's bid for telecare funding from the Scottish Executive.

2. Background

- 2.1 Local authorities were invited by the Scottish Executive to submit a bid for telecare funding by 31 October 2006. Thereafter the bid would be evaluated by the Joint Improvement Team during November and December 2006.
- 2.2 The funding identified by the Scottish Executive for West Dunbartonshire is £142,479.
- 2.3 Part of the bid process was to ensure that our planning partners have been involved in agreeing the contents of the bid. The bid was approved by the Community Planning Partnership Board on 8 November 2006 and by the Health Improvement and Social Justice Partnership on 22 November 2006.
- 2.4 A report on this subject was made to the Social Justice Committee of 8 November 2006.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1 The Joint Improvement Team have accepted the bid from West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 3.2 The Council's use of the funding and the effect of its use will be monitored and evaluated until 2010 by the external consultants employed by the Scottish Executive.
- 3.3 The 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.

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.
- 4.2** The telecare project may be required to fund additional support to the Project Manager to ensure full management of the telecare project.

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. Permission has been granted by the Scottish Executive that the 2006/07 funding can be carried forward from this financial year into 2007/08.
- 5.2** As stated above, and in the original report of 8 November 2006, 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. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** The main risks relate to the ability to provide evidence that the use of the telecare funding has provided efficiencies to the Council and that these efficiencies will be invested in sustaining and/or expanding the provision of telecare provision to a wider client base.
- 6.2** To mitigate against this risk management will put in place systems to track the effects of the telecare provision on clients. Members will be provided with an update report regarding the outcomes of the provision at a future meeting of the Committee.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** The approval of the Telecare funding is welcomed by the Social Work Services department as it provides the department with an opportunity to invest in expanding Telecare provision to a wider client-base, than had been provided through the capital investment of two years ago for Sheltered Housing.
- 7.2** The funding will allow the department to study the effect of such Telecare equipment in different settings and in using different types of equipment to attempt to determine what equipment provides the most effective assistance to service users, carers and the Council.
- 7.3** Information on progress and on the effects of the new equipment will be provided to future meetings of the Committee on a regular basis.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** It is recommended that Committee notes the updated position regarding the approval of the Telecare bid by the Scottish Executive.

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Background Papers: Report to Social Justice Committee of 8 November 2006:
Telecare Bid – Scottish Executive
Telecare documentation and guidance
Telecare bid
Both are available from Lynne McKnight

Wards Affected: All